FULL 68 PAGES

STORIES of STRANGE ADVENTURE

APPROVED COMIC

Sinister TALES

No 46

1/-

Can A WOMAN BE LOST ... INSIDE A SPECK OF DUST? READ THE ANSWER TO THIS AMAZING MYSTERY IN... "SOMEWHERE I'LL FIND YOU!"

HELP ME... PLEASE HELP ME! I... I'M TRAPPED IN THE LAND OF THE ATOM!

OLDEN WHITNEY

SOMEWHERE I'LL *find* YOU!

IS IT POSSIBLE TO SEARCH FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN SWEPT FROM THIS WORLD LIKE A SPECK OF DUST? IT MIGHT SEEM BEYOND BELIEF, READER ...UNTIL YOU LEARN DR. GORDON'S TERRIBLE SECRET!

STORY: BOB STANDISH

ART: PAUL REINMAN

POST OFF

ELLEN! WHERE ARE YOU, ELLEN? I--- I'VE GOT TO BRING YOU BACK!

THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY! DON'T LOSE HOPE! I'LL KEEP LOOKING, ELLEN---

POST OFF

...AND SOMEWHERE I'LL FIND YOU!

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT OLD DR. GORDON FOR NEARLY FORTY YEARS ...BUT HE'S ACTUALLY HARMLESS!

I FIND HIM HIGHLY INTERESTING! WHAT'S HIS STORY?

WELL, BACK BEFORE I WAS BORN, OLD LYLE GORDON HAD QUITE A REPUTATION AS A SCIENTIST! HE WORKED IN A CAREFULLY LOCKED LABORATORY OUT ON BIRCH HILL--- NOBODY KNEW ON WHAT!

SINISTER TALES No. 46
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AND NO ONE'S EVER GOING TO KNOW ABOUT HIS EXPERIMENTS ··· BECAUSE EVER SINCE THAT NIGHT, 36 YEARS AGO, WHEN HE SUFFERED SOME KIND OF MENTAL SHOCK, HIS MIND'S BEEN FUZZY! ALL HE DOES IS GO AROUND CALLING FOR ELLEN!
WHERE DOES SHE FIT IN?

THEY WERE ENGAGED ONCE, AND SHE TOLD GORDON SHE'D BREAK IT IF HE DIDN'T STOP HIS EXPERIMENTS! AND THEN ONE DAY, SHE WAS GONE JUST LIKE THAT! IT MUST HAVE BEEN A BAD SHOCK TO HIM, BECAUSE EVER SINCE THEN HE'S BEEN SEARCHING FOR ELLEN! BUT HE'S HARMLESS!

I WANT TO HELP HIM! HERE ··· TAKE ONE OF MY CARDS!
DR. VINCENT KORD PSYCHIATRIST

PROBABLY AMNESIA INDUCED BY SHOCK ··· I'D LIKE TO SEE WHAT I CAN DO FOR THE POOR OLD FELLOW! I'LL DRIVE OUT TO THE LAB ON BIRCH HILL TONIGHT, AND TALK TO HIM!

AND SO DR. CARR SET OUT ON A VISIT ··· LITTLE REALIZING THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO THE MOST AMAZING EXPERIENCE IN HIS CAREER!

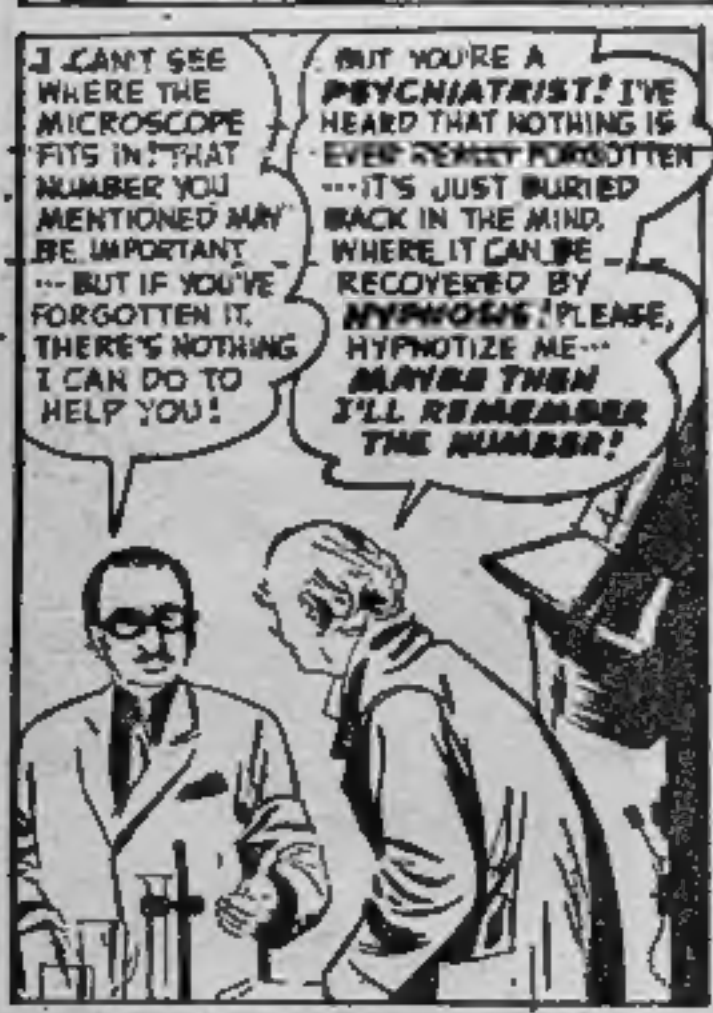
OH, ELLEN ··· ELLEN! I DID IT TO YOU ··· IT WAS MY FAULT! BUT I'LL KEEP ON LOOKING ··· I'LL FIND THE WAY!

I'LL FIND YOU ··· I SWEAR I WILL!
ER ··· EXCUSE ME, PLEASE ···

I'M DR. CARR, A PSYCHIATRIST ··· AND I'M SURE I CAN HELP YOU! JUST TELL ME ··· WHERE IS ELLEN?
I CAN'T TELL YOU! IT'S OUR SECRET ··· ELLEN'S AND MINE!

WELL, IF YOU DON'T WANT MY HELP...
WAIT! MAYBE YOU COULD DO SOMETHING!

ALL I ASK YOU TO DO IS HELP ME REMEMBER A NUMBER...AND THEN I'LL FIND ELLEN! I HAD A SHOCK THAT MADE ME FORGET THE NUMBER... BUT I'M NOT CRAZY! JUST LOOK... LOOK INTO THIS MICRO-SCOPE...


I CAN'T SEE WHERE THE MICROSCOPE FITS IN! THAT NUMBER YOU MENTIONED MAY BE IMPORTANT ...BUT IF YOU'VE FORGOTTEN IT, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO HELP YOU!
BUT YOU'RE A PSYCHIATRIST! I'VE HEARD THAT NOTHING IS EVER REALLY FORGOTTEN ...IT'S JUST BURIED BACK IN THE MIND, WHERE IT CAN BE RECOVERED BY HYPNOSIS! PLEASE, HYPNOTIZE ME... MAYBE THEN I'LL REMEMBER THE NUMBER!

YOU CAN'T HYPNOTIZE AN INSANE PERSON... BUT I'LL HUMOR THE POOR OLD FELLOW!
VERY WELL! IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT... WE'LL TRY HYPNOSIS!

RELAX, GORDON...REL YOU'RE DRIFTING OFF DRIFTING OFF...
THAT'S ODD THE HYPNOS IS TAKING EFFECT!

YOU'RE GOING BACK, GORDON! YOU'RE GOING BACK NEARLY FORTY YEARS...TO THE TIME WHEN ELLEN WAS STILL WITH YOU!
YES...I CAN SEE US NOW... TOGETHER... AS WE USED TO BE!

"WE WERE TOGETHER THAT NIGHT I SHOWED ELLEN MY DISCOVERY...A DISCOVERY I WAS SURE WOULD CHANGE THE WORLD!"
YOU'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT I WAS WASTING TIME WORKING ON MY DIMENSION BEAM! BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK NOW, DARLING?
I CAN HARDL BELIEVE WHAT I'VE SEEN, LYLE IT'S INCREC BLE!

BUT IT'S TRUE, ELLEN! THE DIMENSION BEAM CAN ACTUALLY REDUCE THE SIZE OF LIVING CELLS! FIVE MINUTES AGO, THIS CREATURE WAS A LARGE POLICE DOG ... AND NOW ...

CAN YOU REALIZE THE IMMENSE POSSIBILITIES OF THE DIMENSION BEAM, HONEY? WHOLE INVADING ARMIES COULD BE RENDERED HELPLESS!
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU! BUT TELL ME ... WILL THE BEAM WORK ON ANY KIND OF LIVING CREATURE?

WATCH ... I'M GOING TO REDUCE THIS EAGLE TO THE SIZE OF A BUMBLEBEE!

ELLEN, LOOK ... IT'S SHRINKING!
PLEASE, SWITCH OFF THE MACHINE ... BEFORE THE POOR THING GETS ANY SMALLER!

I NEVER COULD RESIST THAT VOICE OF YOURS! DID I EVER TELL YOU THAT IT SOUNDS LIKE BELLS ... THE MELLOW, SILVERY CHIMING OF BELLS?
NEVER MIND THE FLATTERY! GET BUSY ... AND START WRITING UP YOUR NOTES!

"I WROTE ... WHILE ELLEN IDLY STUDIED THE DIMENSION BEAM! NEITHER OF US NOTICED THE EAGLE STIRRING RESTLESSLY ON ITS PERCH ... DAZED AND ILL-TEMPERED FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE BEAM ..."

"THEN I HEARD THE SWISH OF WINGS ... AND IN THE NEXT INSTANT, THE EAGLE SWOOPED ... FLAPPING WILDLY AGAINST THE DIMENSION BEAM SWITCH!"
WAM!
ELLEN ... WATCH OUT!

SHE'S CAUGHT IN THE BEAM!
OHH-H!

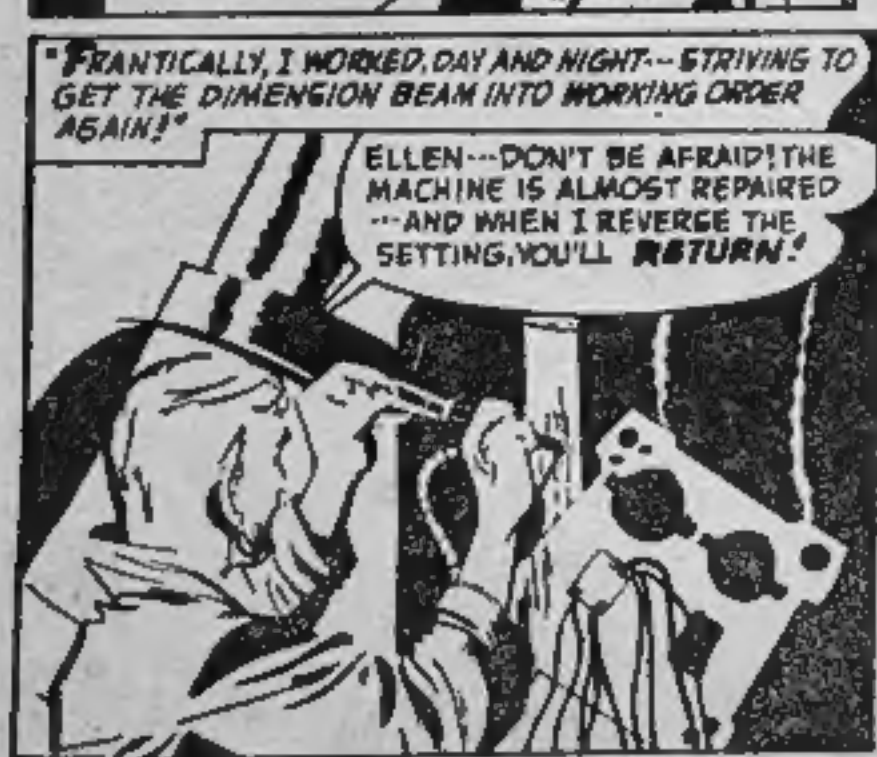
GOT TO-- TURN IT OFF--
LYLE--- HELP ME! I'M STARTING TO SHRINK!

I'M STILL GROWING SMALLER-- SMALLER EVERY SECOND! DO SOME-THING--- PLEASE!
ELLEN, I CAN'T--- YOU WERE EXPOSED TOO LONG! THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO!

"HER VOICE WAS BARELY AUDIBLE NOW--- HER WISPY, SILVERY VOICE— TINKLING FAINTER AND FAINTER LIKE A FAR-OFF BELL!"
SAVE ME, LYLE!
NOW SHE'S SO TINY I CAN BARELY SEE HER---IN ANOTHER SECOND SHE'LL VANISH COMPLETELY!

"THEN MY MIND SNAPPED, AND HATRED ENGULFED ME---HATRED FOR THE BEAM THAT HAD ROBBED ME OF THE DEAREST THING IN LIFE!"
I'LL SMASH YOU TO BITS---I'LL DESTROY YOU---
BLAM!

"PANTING, I STARED AT THE WRECKAGE---AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, I REALIZED WHAT I HAD DONE!"
I--I MUST BE OUT OF MY HEAD FROM SHOCK! I COULD HAVE BROUGHT ELLEN BACK BY REVERS-ING THE DIMENSION BEAM'S MAGNETIC FIELD---AND NOW THE MACHINE'S RUINED!


"FRANTICALLY, I WORKED, DAY AND NIGHT---STRIVING TO GET THE DIMENSION BEAM INTO WORKING ORDER AGAIN!"
ELLEN---DON'T BE AFRAID! THE MACHINE IS ALMOST REPAIRED ---AND WHEN I REVERSE THE SETTING, YOU'LL RETURN!

"YES, THE MACHINE WAS REPAIRED! BUT MY MIND COULD NOT BE REPAIRED---"
I---I DON'T REMEMBER THE DIAL SETTING! THE SHOCK OF WATCHING ELLEN VANISH HAS BLOTTED IT FROM MY MEMORY!

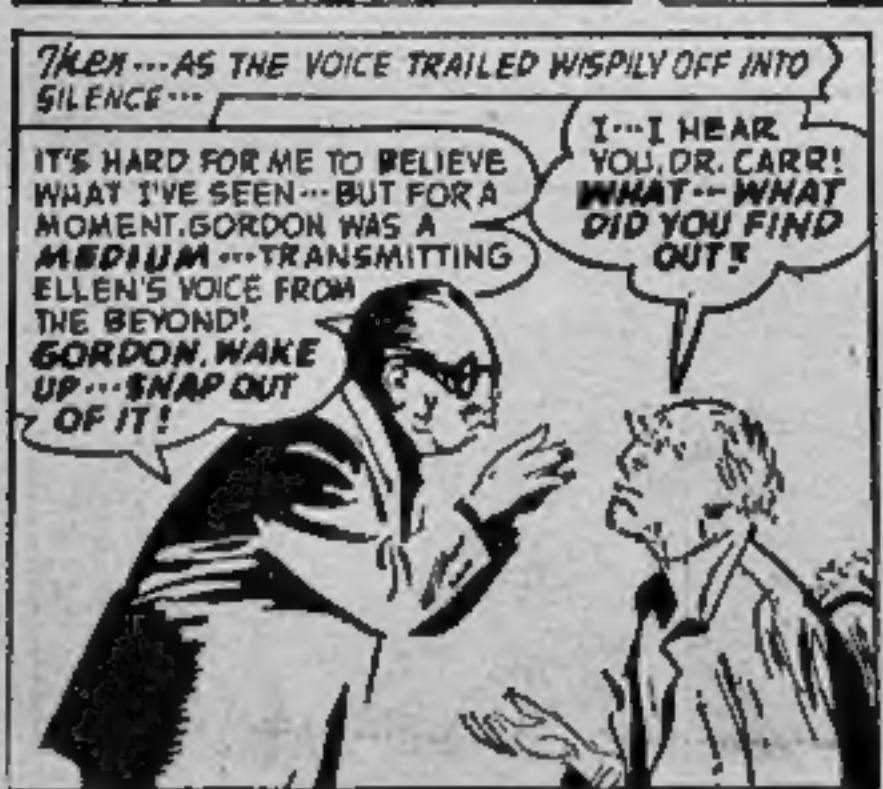
ELLEN···FORGIVE ME! I'LL KEEP TRYING TO REMEMBER···I'LL KEEP SEARCHING FOR THAT DIAL SETTING! I'LL NEVER GIVE UP···UNTIL I FIND YOU!

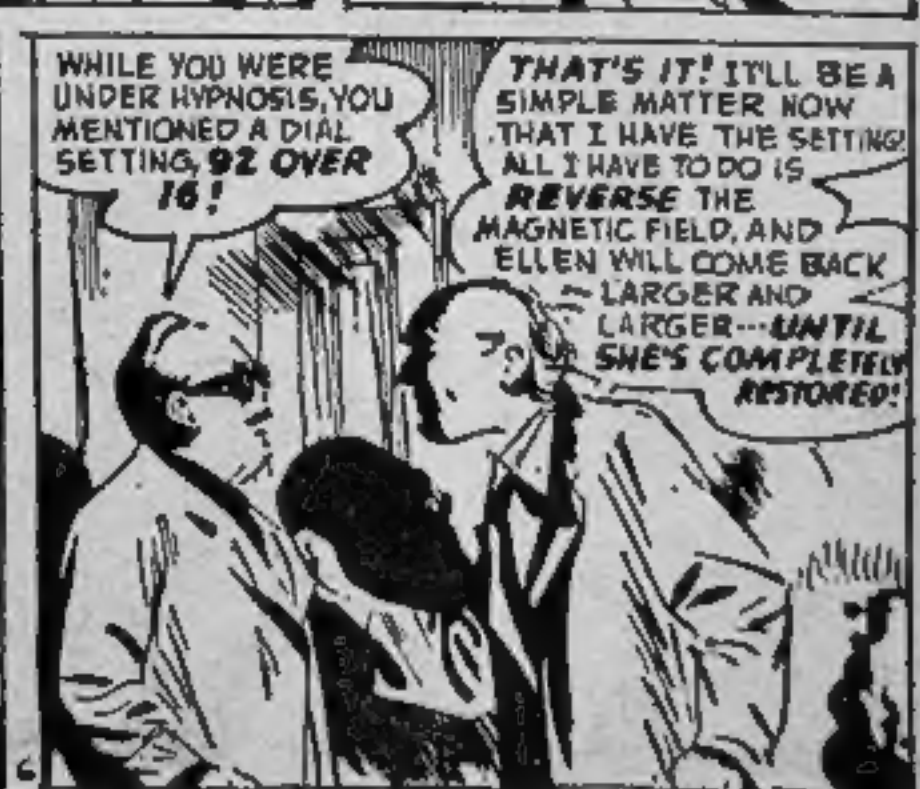
THE MACHINE HAS BEEN REPAIRED FOR NEARLY FORTY YEARS! AND STILL I CAN'T REMEMBER THAT NUMBER!
YOU CAN REMEMBER, GORDON! TRY ···TRY!

SUDDENLY, GORDON'S BODY TWISTED IN A STRANGE CONVULSION! AND AS HIS HAND CLUTCHED AT HIS THROAT ···A WEIRD CHANGE CAME OVER HIS STRANGLED VOICE!
AH-H! AH-H! LYLE! LYLE!
GREAT GUNS! IN BETWEEN THOSE GASPS, THERE'S ANOTHER SOUND ···A SOUND LIKE A VOICE THAT'S MILES AWAY!

LYLE! LYLE! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
IT'S BARELY AUDIBLE···BUT I KNOW THAT VOICE FROM GORDON'S DESCRIPTION! A VOICE LIKE BELLS ···LIKE THE SILVERY CHIMING OF BELLS! IT'S ELLEN!

YES, IT WAS GORDON WHO SPOKE···BUT THE VOICE WAS THAT OF A GURU WHO HAD VANISHED···SOUNDING FAINTLY OUT OF THE VAST GULF OF THE UNKNOWN!
LYLE··· SET THE MACHINE AT 92 OVER 16! 92 OVER 16! 92 OVER 16!


THEN···AS THE VOICE TRAILED WISPILY OFF INTO SILENCE···
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO BELIEVE WHAT I'VE SEEN···BUT FOR A MOMENT, GORDON WAS A MEDIUM···TRANSMITTING ELLEN'S VOICE FROM THE BEYOND! GORDON, WAKE UP···SNAP OUT OF IT!
I···I HEAR YOU, DR. CARR! WHAT···WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT?


WHILE YOU WERE UNDER HYPNOSIS, YOU MENTIONED A DIAL SETTING, 92 OVER 16!
THAT'S IT! IT'LL BE A SIMPLE MATTER NOW THAT I HAVE THE SETTING! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS REVERSE THE MAGNETIC FIELD, AND ELLEN WILL COME BACK ···LARGER AND LARGER···UNTIL SHE'S COMPLETELY RESTORED!

92 OVER 16! WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS, DR. CARE! FIRST A SPECK OF NOTHING — AND THEN SOMETHING LIKE A TINY DOLL — GROWING GROWING — UNTIL ELLEN IS IN MY ARMS AGAIN!

BUT HOW COULD YOU GET HER UNDER THE BEAM? SHE MAY HAVE SHRINKLED TO THE SIZE OF AN ATOM AND BEEN BLOWN ACROSS THE WORLD!
RIGHT AFTER SHE DISAPPEARED I TOOK UP A SPLINTER OF THE FLOOR ON WHICH SHE HAD STOOD AND ISOLATED IT UNDER THE MICROSCOPE! YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF — SHE'S THERE!

THINK OF IT! I'M ACTUALLY SETTING THE DIAL — AND THEN I'M GOING TO PLACE THE MICROSCOPE SLIDE UNDER THE BEAM!
FOR YOUR SAKE, GORDON — I HOPE IT WORKS!

THE BEAM'S REVERSED! I'M READY TO SWITCH ON THE POWER, DR. CARE — GET BACK! THAT'S WHERE ELLEN STOOD — AND YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HER!

CRIK-RRAK!
BLAM!

WHAT HAPPENED?
THE MACHINE SHORT-CIRCUITED! IT MEANS THAT THE BEAM CAN'T BE REVERSED! IT CAN MAKE THINGS SMALLER, BUT IT CAN'T RESTORE THEM TO THEIR NORMAL SIZE! ELLEN'S DOOMED TO REMAIN INVISIBLE!

PANTING, MR. GORDON STARTED WORKING FRANTICALLY AT THE CONTROL PANEL!
YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE THE BEST OF THINGS! IF THE MACHINE CAN'T BRING ELLEN BACK — WHY BOTHER TWICE BRING WITH IT!
BECAUSE THERE'S ANOTHER WAY I CAN JOIN HER!

GREAT GUNS ... I THINK I KNOW WHAT HE MEANS!
COME AWAY, MAN ... YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION TO FIDDLE AROUND WITH THIS THING! YOU'RE NOT IN YOUR RIGHT MIND ... CAN'T YOU SEE THIS IS JUST SOMETHING YOU'VE IMAGINED?
YOU'RE LYING! GET AWAY ... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STOP ME FROM FINDING ELLEN!

NO ... NOTHING WILL STOP ME!

92 OVER 16, ELLEN ... IT MEANS I CAN COME TO YOU!
GORDON ... DON'T DO IT!

NO USE! I ... I CAN'T REACH THE SWITCH!
I'M COMING, ELLEN! I'LL BE WITH YOU ... SOON!

HE'S GETTING SMALLER ... SMALLER!

BARELY VISIBLE, THE TINY, SHRINKING FIGURE DARTED AWAY FROM THE DIMENSION BEAM ... TOWARDS THE MICROSCOPE!

HE'S GONE! BUT HE COULDN'T HAVE DISAPPEARED ENTIRELY IN THIS SPACE OF TIME ... HE MUST STILL BE SOMEWHERE IN THE LABORATORY!

THE MICROSCOPE! GORDON SWORE ELLEN WAS THERE···IS IT POSSIBLE THAT HE'S THERE, TOO?

ALL I CAN SEE IS A GREEN BLUR! WAIT··· I'VE GOT THE FOCUS NOW! IT'S AN EXPANSE OF TALL, WAVING GRASS ···A TINY LANDSCAPE THAT WOULD FIT ON THE HEAD OF A PIN!

THE FOLIAGE SWAYED···AND UNDER DR. CARR'S STARTLED GAZE, A FIGURE EMERGED!
LYLE···LYLE··· WHERE ARE YOU?
IT'S ELLEN··· SEARCHING FOR HIM!

I'VE BEEN WAITING, LYLE! I'VE BEEN WAITING··· SO LONG!

YES, IT'S ELLEN···LOOKING AS YOUNG AS THAT DAY ON WHICH SHE VANISHED··· THIRTY-SIX YEARS AGO! SHE'S BEEN LOCKED IN THE LAND OF THE ATOM···WHERE YOUTH IS ETERNAL! AND AT THE VERY EDGE OF THE GLASS SLIDE I CAN MAKE OUT SOMETHING ELSE! SOMEONE···COMING TOWARDS HER!

ELLEN!
LYLE! YOU ···YOU'VE FOUND ME!

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF LONGING···THEY'RE TOGETHER! TOGETHER IN THEIR OWN INVISIBLE WORLD···FOR THE REST OF TIME!
THE END

THINK YOU'VE THRILLED TO TENSE TALES OF GRIPPING ADVENTURE? WELL, READER -- YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET! YOU'LL EXPLORE NEW DIMENSIONS OF MYSTERY AND MAGIC WITH...

MAGICMAN in "WE'LL BURY YOU DEEP!"

STORY: ZEV ZIMMER
ART: PETE COSTANZA

MAGICMAN··· I KNOW THAT GAL! SHE'S MARGOT ROBBINS, THE PRETTIEST DISH IN MY HOMETOWN! WHAT'S SHE DOIN' ABOARD THE ROCKET?
I HEARD THE EXPEDITION HAD A WOMAN METEOROLOGIST··

I WANNA BE HER SECURITY! NOT THAT I EVER HAD A CHANCE WITH HER ·SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN NUTS ABOUT A GUY NAMED CONCANNON FROM BACK HOME!
OKAY···YOU'RE APPOINTED!

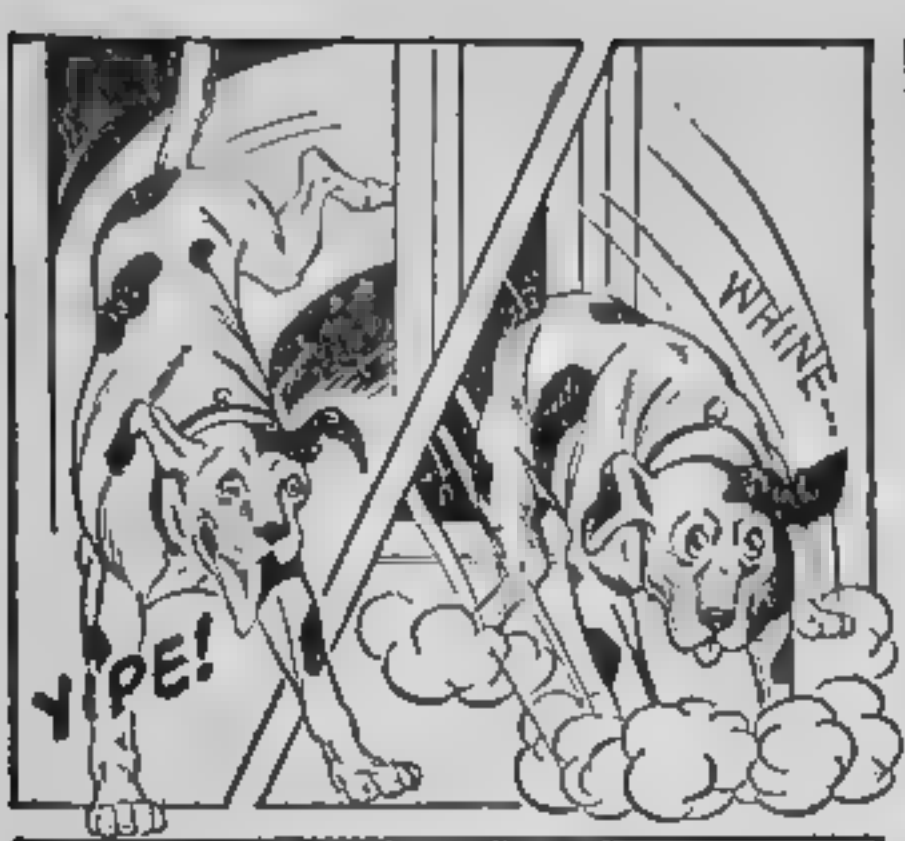
HI, MARGOT! REMEMBER ME? YER OLD PAL KILKENNY!
KILKENNY··?

WHY, OF COURSE!
WOW! THESE TRIPS THROUGH SPACE SURE DO WONDERS FOR A DAME··· I'M ALL FOR THEM!

MEANWHILE, MAGICMAN HAD SOUGHT OUT COMMANDER ADAMS···
I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO GUARD YOU, COMMANDER. DON'T MIND IF I STICK CLOSER TO YOU THAN A BURR.
IF YOU CAN TAKE IT, I CAN. I'VE GOT TO HEAD BACK HOME TO VISIT THE FOLKS BEFORE I HAVE THE BIG CONFAB THAT'S SCHEDULED WITH THE MINISTRY OF SPACE EXPLORATION.

AT ADAMS' HOME···
MOM···DAD··IT'S SO WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU···
SURE IS GOOD TO SEE A FELLA COME HOME TO HIS FAMILY.

YOU'RE NOT FORGETTING THAT OLD DOG OF YOURS, ARE YOU? GUESS HE LOVES YOU MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD! HE'S SCRATCHING AT THE DOOR··· I'LL LET HIM IN.
SCRATCH SCRATCH


YIPE!
WHINE...

FUNNY...HOW HE CAN HAVE FORGOTTEN ME SO SOON! B BETTER GET HIM OUT OF THE ROOM.
NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT. A DOG'S MEMORY MIGHT FAIL, BUT NOT HIS INSTINCTS. A DOG KNOWS A FRIEND. BUT I GUESS HERE'S ONE WHO DOESN'T!
GRRRR

MEANTIME, MARGOT'S FAMILY HAD COME TO NEW YORK TO WELCOME HER...
MARGOT... WHY DOES HE HAVE TO BE HERE?
IT'S ALL RIGHT DAD. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ASSIGNED HIM TO GUARD ME.

OH, FOR A SECOND, I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU'D FORGOTTEN THAT YOU'RE ENGAGED TO BOB CONCANNON!
CONCANNON...? NOT...KILKENNY?
MARGOT, HONEY! I GOT HERE AS FAST AS I COULD!

OH, SWEET-HEART!
WOT THE...!

AFTER THE VISITORS HAD LEFT...
I SAW YOU MAKIN' LOVEY-DOVE WITH THAT GUY...HOW COME? YOU CAN'T PLAY FAST AND LOOSE WITH ME!
WELL...YOU SEE...THE NAMES...I SORT OF CONFUSED THEM. KILKENNY... CONCANNON...

HUH? YOU'RE ALL MIXED UP, KID...MAYBE ON ACCOUNT OF YOUR SPACE FLIGHT. I'M GONNA REPORT IT AND HAVE YOU CHECKED BY A DOCTOR!
NO...NOT A DOCTOR! YOU STUPID FOOL, I WON'T STAND FOR YOUR MEDDLING!

SHE WAS RANTING IN A WILD RAGE.. AND NOW SOMETHING STRANGE WAS HAPPENING! THROUGH THE LINES OF HER LOVELY FACE, ANOTHER FACE LOOMED ...AWFUL - FRIGHTENING...
AND I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T LIVE TO MEDDLE ANY FURTHER!
MARGOT... WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOUR F-FACE...

HER HANDS WERE GRIPPING HIM NOW- AND HE WAS HELPLESS BEFORE A GIANT STRENGTH...
H-HELP!
OKAY, YOU PUT HIM DOWN!

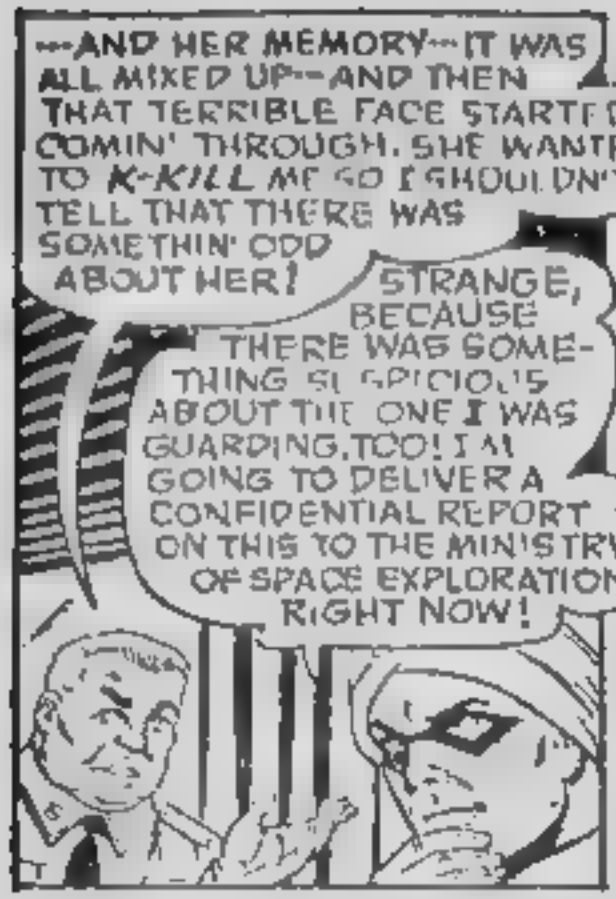
COME BACK! YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY THAT EASY!

SUDDENLY, SHE DROPPED TO HER KNEES IN HIS PATH...
OOF!

MY HEAD ...DIZZY...
NOW TO FINISH YOU OFF! WE'LL BURY YOU DEEP ...ALL OF YOU!

AT THE LAST MOMENT, MAGICMAN DODGED...
YEEE-OWWW!

WOMEN'S CLOTHES, BUT SHE...OR HE... IS DEAD!
IT, YOU MEAN. LOOK AT THE FACE!


...AND HER MEMORY...IT WAS ALL MIXED UP...AND THEN THAT TERRIBLE FACE STARTED COMIN' THROUGH. SHE WANTED TO K-KILL ME SO I SHOULDN'T TELL THAT THERE WAS SOMETHIN' ODD ABOUT HER!
STRANGE, BECAUSE THERE WAS SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THE ONE I WAS GUARDING, TOO! I AM GOING TO DELIVER A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT ON THIS TO THE MINISTRY OF SPACE EXPLORATION RIGHT NOW!

THIS IS ALL NONSENSE... JUST WHAT IS IT THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO HINT? THAT THESE AREN'T THE SAME PEOPLE WHO WENT UP TO THE PLANET ASTRA?
THE GIRL'S FACE HAS ALREADY PROVEN THAT. NOW I'M ASKING FOR AN IMMEDIATE POST MORTEM ON HER BODY!

THE POST MORTEM WAS COMPLETED
WELL— FIND ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY?
YES.. VERY MUCH OUT OF THE ORDINARY. LOOK!

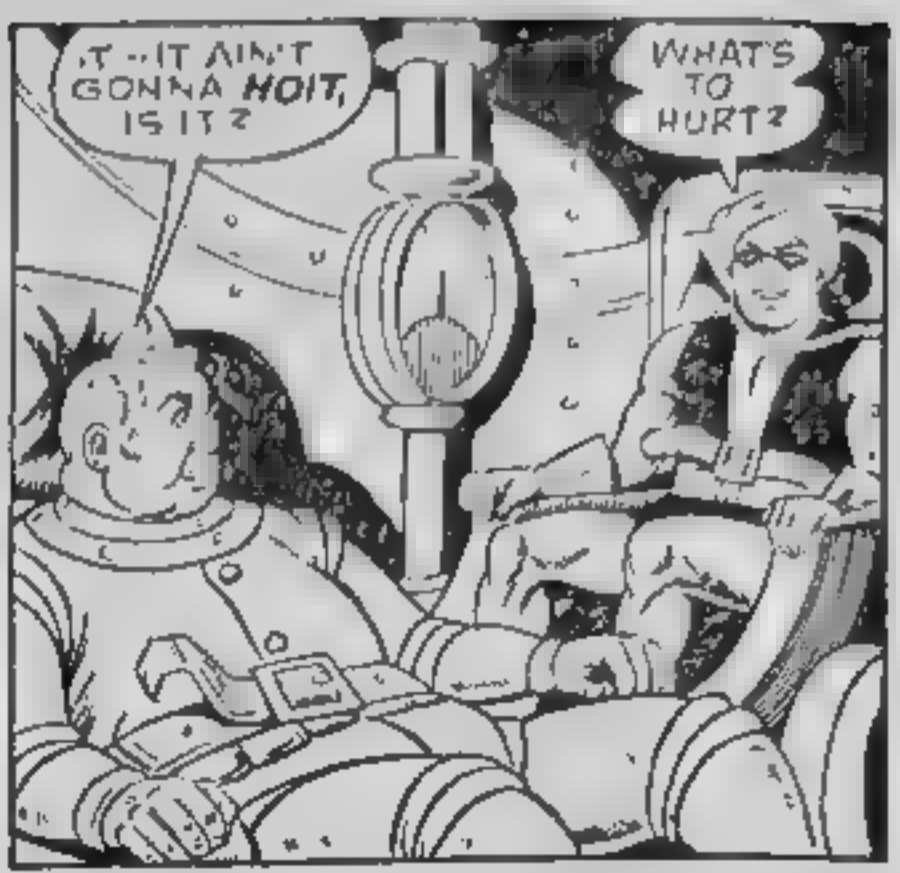
HERE'S WHAT I REMOVED FROM WHERE THE VITAL ORGANS SHOULD HAVE BEEN!
GULP!

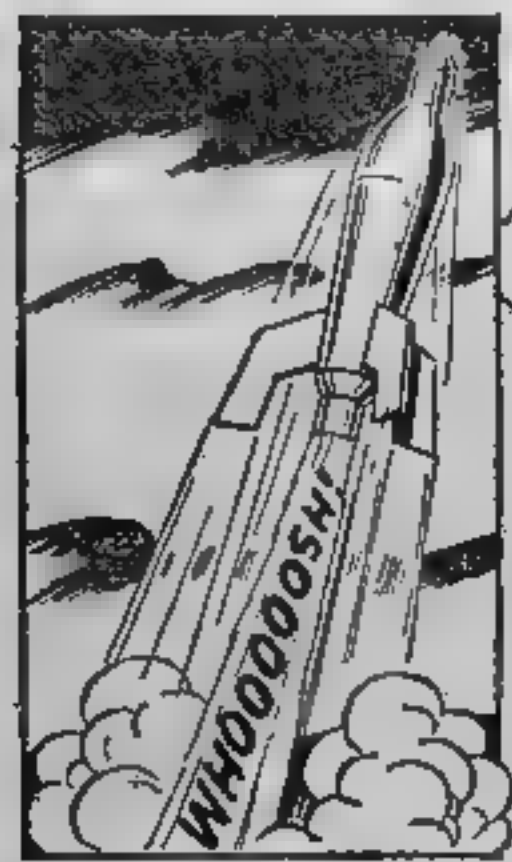
SHE...SHE WASN'T HUMAN ·AND THE SAME'S PROBABLY TRUE OF THE WHOLE CREW THAT CAME BACK! I'LL ORDER THEM ARRESTED AT ONCE! DID YOU...SUSPECT ANYTHING LIKE THIS?
YES. THEY WERE PERFECT REPLICAS OF THE REAL CREW— BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING OFF IN THE GIRL'S MECHANICAL MEMORY SO THAT SHE MIXED UP THE NAMES KILKENNY AND CONCANNON. HER FACE CHANGED TO THAT OF A SPACEMAN .. AND AS FOR COMMANDER ADAMS, WHY DIDN'T HIS OWN DOG RECOGNIZE HIM?

THE MASQUERADE SHOWS THAT THIS WAS NO FRIENDLY VISIT ON THE PART OF THE SPACEMEN. THEY MUST HAVE KILLED OUR CREW, APPROPRIATED THEIR BODIES AND COME HERE AS SPIES! I'M VOLUNTEERING TO TAKE THAT ROCKET BACK TO ASTRA MYSELF AND SEE WHAT GIVES!
ME TOO!

TWENTY MINUTES BEFORE TAKEOFF...
WE'VE MANAGED TO SEIZE ALL THE CREW EXCEPT COMMANDER ADAMS. HE ESCAPED, BUT WE'VE GOT A DRAGNET OUT FOR HIM. THERE'S NO WAY ON EARTH THAT HE CAN GET AWAY— WE'LL GRAB HIM YET!

S' WHO CARES FROM RISKS? I GOT MOXIE -- I GOT GUTS-- I GOT NOIVE!
OH, YOU WONDERFUL HERO, YOU!


IT--IT AIN'T GONNA HOIT, IS IT?
WHAT'S TO HURT?


WHOOOOSH!

NNNNGGGGG!

THAT'S HOME, SWEET HOME! HOW DOES IT LOOK FROM A THOUSAND MILES UP?
A THOUSAND --- M-MILES? EEEE-YOWWW! I QUIT---I D-DON'T WANT THIS JOB! GET ME D-DOWN!

BUT AT LAST KILKENNY QUIETED DOWN---AND THEY RETIRED TO DEEP SLEEP. AND IN THE DARKNESS, A LOCKER DOOR OPENED---SLOWLY---
CR-REAK
MADE IT---I'M ON MY WAY BACK TO ASTRA, ANYWAY. BUT I'VE GOT TO PUT THEM OUT OF THE WAY BEFORE THEY DISCOVER ME---

KILKENNY'S DREAM WAS BLISSFUL---
THE SHEER DELIGHT WOKE HIM--- BUT INSTEAD OF HER FACE---
M-MAGICMAN HELP!

YOU! WE NEVER THOUGHT WE HAD A STOWAWAY ABOARD!
POW!

DO YOU PUNY EARTHMEN THINK YOU CAN BATTLE US? WE'LL BURY YOU DEEP...ALL OF YOU!
SOK!

I'VE GOT MY OWN IDEAS ABOUT THAT! THIS FOR INSTANCE!

SPUTT-TT-TT
FIZZ-ZZZ
YER-POW!
GREAT SCOTT! HE'S SHORT-CIRCUITED THE AUTOMATIC CONTROLS!

OUT OF CONTROL, THE ROCKET HEADED STRAIGHT FOR DOOM!
A COMET! WE'RE GOING TO CRASH!

THE WHOLE SIDE'S SHEERED OFF!
WHAM!

ARGH! NO... AIR! CAN'T BREATHE...

HERE! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT ... THIS THING WILL BE A MASS OF FLAME IN A SECOND!

OH, GREAT... NOW WHAT? OUT IN SPACE, A MILLION MILES FROM NOWHERE ... AND NO ROCKET!
I DON'T KNOW HOW FAR MY MAGIC WILL GO BUT I'M WILLING TO TRY!

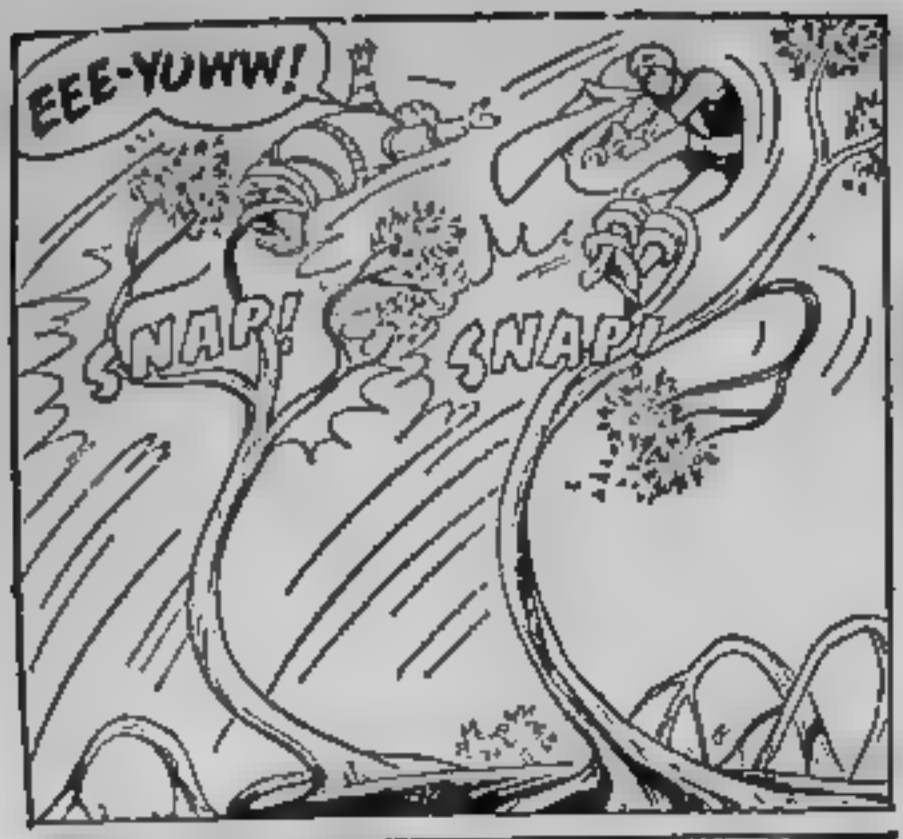
SO FAR, SO GOOD. NOW IF I CAN ONLY MAKE IT FLY...
POP!

HOW DO YOU LIKE THEM APPLES? I MADE IT FLY!

FLY? IT RACED AT A SPEED NEVER BEFORE KNOWN, QUICKLY BRINGING THEM TO THEIR GOAL... PLANET ASTRA!
THERE GOES THE BUBBLE. WE'RE HERE!
POUF!

IT DON'T LOOK NO DIFFERENT FROM HOME. LIKE BROOKLYN BEFORE THE INDIANS CAME, MAYBE.
FUNNY TREES, THOSE AHEAD. LEAVES AND BRANCHES ON THE GROUND. WELL, WE CAN STEP OVER THEM.

WOT THE...! THESE THINGS GOT AHOLD OF US, MAGICMAN!


EEE-YUWW!
SNAP!
SNAP!

GET ME OUTA THIS! DO SOMETHIN'!
LIKE YOU SAY!
CR-RAK!

YOUR TURN NOW! RELAX!
A THING LIKE THIS COULD GIVE A GUY A NOIVOUS B-BREAKDOWN!

TAKE IT EASY PAL, NO NEED FOR THANKS.
YOU'RE THE GREATEST! THERE'S NOTHIN' CAN HARM YOU ...JUST NOTHIN'!

NOTHING? LOOK OUT, MAGICMAN! THAT ROCK YOU'RE STANDING NEXT TO HIDES A DEADLY MENACE!
SS-SS
SS-SS
WHAT...

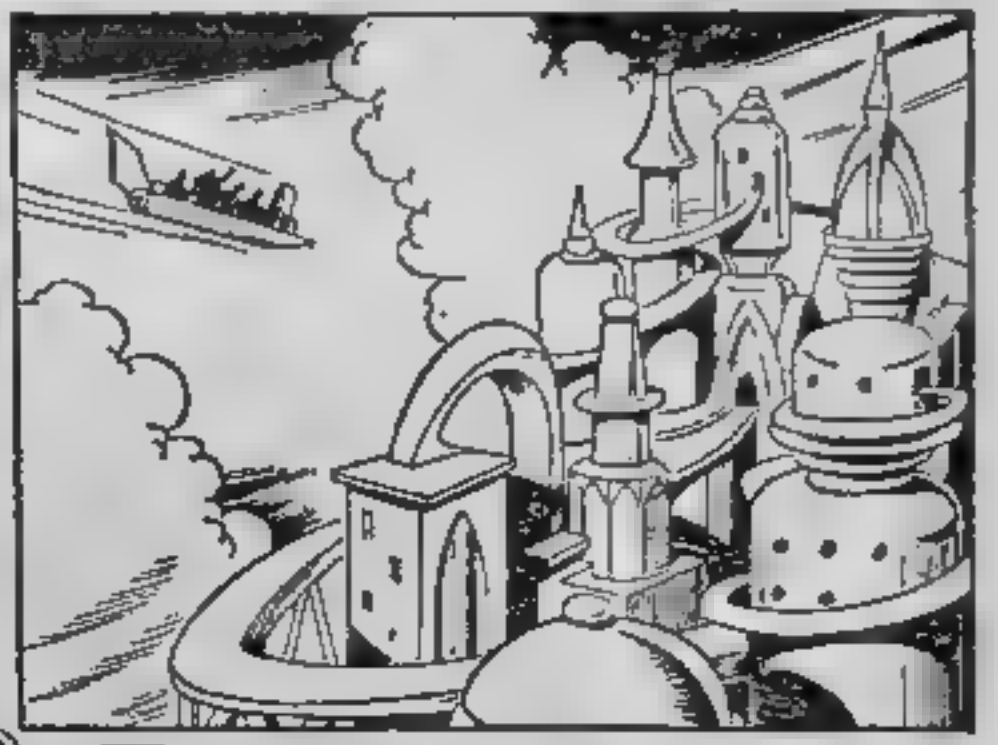
KILKENNY KILLED THE SNAKE...BUT THE DAMAGE HAD BEEN DONE. FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE SAW THAT MAGICMAN WAS VULNERABLE ...TERRIBLY VULNERABLE TO ONE THING...
I...I TRIED EVERYTHIN I KNOW FOR SNAKEBITE...EVEN KILLIN' THE SOIPENT...BUT I CAN'T REVIVE HIM!

THERE AIN'T HARDLY NO HEARTBEAT LEFT...HE... HE'S DYIN'! W-WOT AM I GONNA DO?

SUDDENLY···ABOVE···
IT'S A KINDA FLYIN' PLATFORM! I DON'T CARE WHO'S ON IT··· HELP! HELP! DOWN HERE, YOU GUYS!

YA GOTTA SEE ME! H-HELP!

YA CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! I'M AN AMERICAN CITIZEN!



IT WAS A HOSPITAL THAT THEY BROUGHT MAGICMAN TO···A HOSPITAL WITH THE TOOLS OF A STRANGE SCIENCE···

GR-RAK
MMMM-MMMMMMMMMMMM

WHERE --AM I? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?

RECOVERED, BUT STILL WEAK, HE WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE RULING COUNCIL...
DO NOT...BE AMAZED IF WE SPEAK...YOUR LANGUAGE. SEVERAL OF US...LEARNED IT WHEN THE EARTHMEN VISITED US. WE HOPE ...ER...THAT THEY RETURNED IN GOOD HEALTH?
LET'S PUT OUR CARDS ON THE TABLE IT WASN'T OUR MEN WHO RETURNED TO EARTH BUT YOURS ...DISGUISED!

AH, THEN YOU SAW...THROUGH OUR LITTLE PLAN TO SCOUT OUT EARTH'S DEFENSES...TOO BAD! WE HOLD...MANY PLANETS CAPTIVE...AND INTEND TO ADD EARTH TO THE LIST. TRY TO STOP US AND WE'LL BURY YOU DEEP!
YOU'LL NEVER DO IT! WE'RE TOO STRONG FOR YOU...THAT'S WHAT I CAME UP HERE TO TELL YOU!

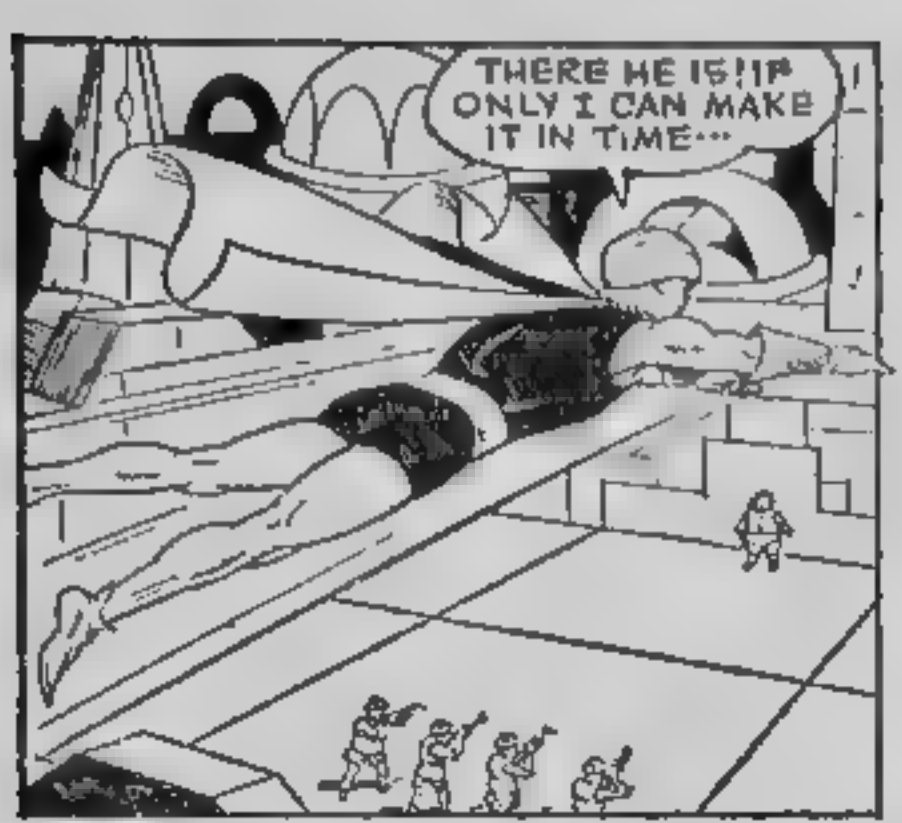
TOO STRONG? THEN SEE WHAT WE HAVE READY TO LAUNCH AGAINST EARTH...THE MOST POWERFUL INVASION FLEET...EVER ASSEMBLED!
GULP! HOW ARE WE EVER GOING TO DEFEND AGAINST A FLEET LIKE THAT?

BY THE WAY, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY FRIEND...THE EARTHLING I CAME WITH?
WE RECOGNIZED THAT HE WAS A MERE UNDERLING AND HE IS BEING EXECUTED IN THE MORNING. MEANWHILE, YOU WILL BE HELD PRISONER...THERE IS MUCH INFORMATION WHICH WE INTEND TO EXTRACT FROM YOU!

IT'S GETTING LIGHT...TIME TO GET BUSY!

A MAGIC PASS OF HIS HAND AND...
THAT'LL GET ME OUT OF HERE...BUT THEN I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHERE THEY'VE GOT KILKENNY!
ZZZZZZZ

EXTRA-SENSORY PERCEPTION BROUGHT HIM A TERRIBLE VISION...
THEY'RE TAKING HIM OUT FOR EXECUTION! AND IF I CAN KEEP GETTING THESE VISIONS, THEY'LL LEAD ME TO THE RIGHT SPOT!


THERE HE IS!!IF ONLY I CAN MAKE IT IN TIME···

YOU WON'T NEED THOSE TRICK GUNS OF YOURS, FELLAS!

WELL, WODDEYA KNOW!

BUT THE EFFORT HAD BEEN TOO MUCH FOR THE STILL-WEAKENED MAGICMAN···
HOLY SMOKE···HE BLACKED OUT! AND THEY'RE GONNA TRY TO FINISH HIM OFF WITH THEIR PISTOLS···
THUD!

THE NOIVE!
FSSSS!
FSSSST!
FSSSST!

OKAY AGAIN, HUH? WELL, WE GOTTA GET OFF THIS PLANET WHILE WE'RE STILL ALIVE!
UH-UH···I CAME HERE FOR A PURPOSE AND I WON'T LEAVE UNTIL IT'S ACCOMPLISHED. TROUBLE IS MY MAGIC HAS BEEN WEAKENED BY WHAT I'VE GONE THROUGH, SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO HELP!

A NEARBY BUILDING LOOKED LIKE AN ARSENAL···AND IT WAS···
HEY, I MIGHT GET TO LIKE THIS!
POW!
BAM!

GUESS THESE JASPERS DON'T HAVE NO ENEMIES UP HERE-- THAT'S WHY THE JOINT WASN'T HEAVILY GUARDED.
STOW THE TALK AND LOAD THESE BOMBS ON THE TRUCKS. WE'RE GONNA NEED A LOT OF 'EM!

HEY THE GATES TO THIS DURNED FIELD ARE TOO FAR AWAY. I'M ·PUFF· POOPED!
OKAY, OKAY! MY MAGIC HASN'T RECOVERED ITS FULL STRENGTH YET BUT THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH LEFT FOR A LITTLE JOB

THERE! GUESS WE CAN GET THE BOMBS IN THIS WAY!
POUF!

REMEMBER, A BOMB ABOARD ALL BUT ONE! AND WHEN YOU SEE ME IN THE WINDOW POINTING TO THE ROCKETS SET THEM TO BLOW ONE AFTER ANOTHER--AND STAND CLEAR!
CHECK!

NOW MAGICMAN ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE CAPTURED--KNOWING THAT HE'D BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE LEADERS AGAIN--
YOU'RE DANGEROUS--WE'VE GOT TO PUT YOU--OUT OF THE WAY AT ONCE!
ENOUGH OF THIS--NOW YOU'RE GOING TO LISTEN TO PLAIN TALK. I'VE COME TO YOUR PLANET TO TELL YOU THAT EARTH KNOWS YOUR PLANS--AND THEY'RE JUST CHILD'S PLAY COMPARED TO WHAT WE CAN DO TO YOU!

IT WAS EASY FOR US TO LEARN WHAT YOU WERE UP TO. I'M HERE TO WARN YOU AGAINST EVEN TRYING TO INVADE--BECAUSE WE HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY YOUR WHOLE PLANET BEFORE A ROCKET CAN LEAVE ON A HOSTILE MISSION AGAINST US!

HA-HA-HA!
YOUR WILD TALK--DOESN'T FOOL US.
OH? SUPPOSE I TELL YOU THAT OUR SCIENCE CAN SEE WHAT YOU INTEND! WATCH WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR ROCKETS--AND THAT'LL ONLY BE THE FIRST STEP!

HE'S POINTIN' TO THE ROCKETS ...THAT'S THE SIGNAL FOR THE BLOWOFFS!

BOOOM!
AI-EEEE! ONE OF OUR ROCKETS... IT'S EXPLODED!

AND THEN, DOWN THE LINE...
BOOM! BAROOM! BOOM! BOOM!
OH-HHHH! ALL OUR ROCKETS ARE EXPLODING!
SO MUCH FOR YOUR INVASION FLEET... DESTROYED BY OUR SCIENTISTS! AND WE CAN WIPE OUT EVERY BUILDING, EVERY MEMBER OF YOUR RACE! WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE?
P-PEACE! WE'LL NEVER MENACE YOU AGAIN ...EARTH IS TOO STRONG FOR US!

ER...YOU LEFT ONE OF OUR ROCKETS UNTOUCHED. WHY?
OH, THAT? THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING BACK TO EARTH IN! AND YOU'D BETTER BE GOOD BOYS OR WE'LL BURY YOU DEEP!

AND SO THE LONG TRIP HOME BEGAN. KILKENNY HAD BROUGHT A SPACEMAN GUITAR AS A SOUVENIR...
HEY, HOW DO YA LIKE THIS ONE?
THEY TRIED TO BURY US DOWN DEEP IT COULDA BEEN SO TRAGIC IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR MAGICMAN... AND ALL HIS REAL COOL MAGIC! ...YEAH, YEAH, YEAH!
GREAT STUFF, KILKENNY, BUT I DON'T DESERVE ALL THAT CREDIT. I'M NOT THAT GOOD!
OH, NO? WELL FOR MY MONEY—THERE'S NOTHIN' YOU CAN'T DO, MAGICMAN!
THE END!

THE ANTHROPOIDS

THE GIANT ANTHROPOIDS STOOD READY FOR COMBAT...READY TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH FOR A REASON THEY KNEW NOT... NOR CARED TO KNOW... BUT BEHIND THIS AGE-OLD MATCH OF STRENGTH ON THE PLANET ANTHRO HUNG THE FATE OF EARTH AND ALL HUMANS...

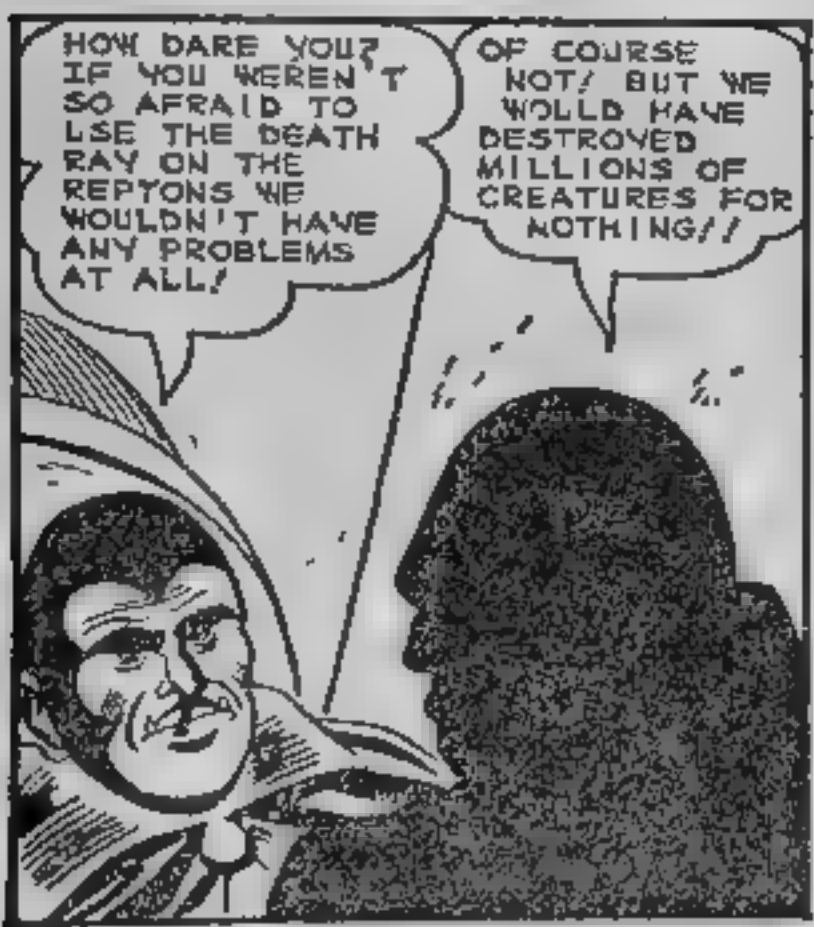
A-4253

WE CANNOT WAIT ANY LONGER!

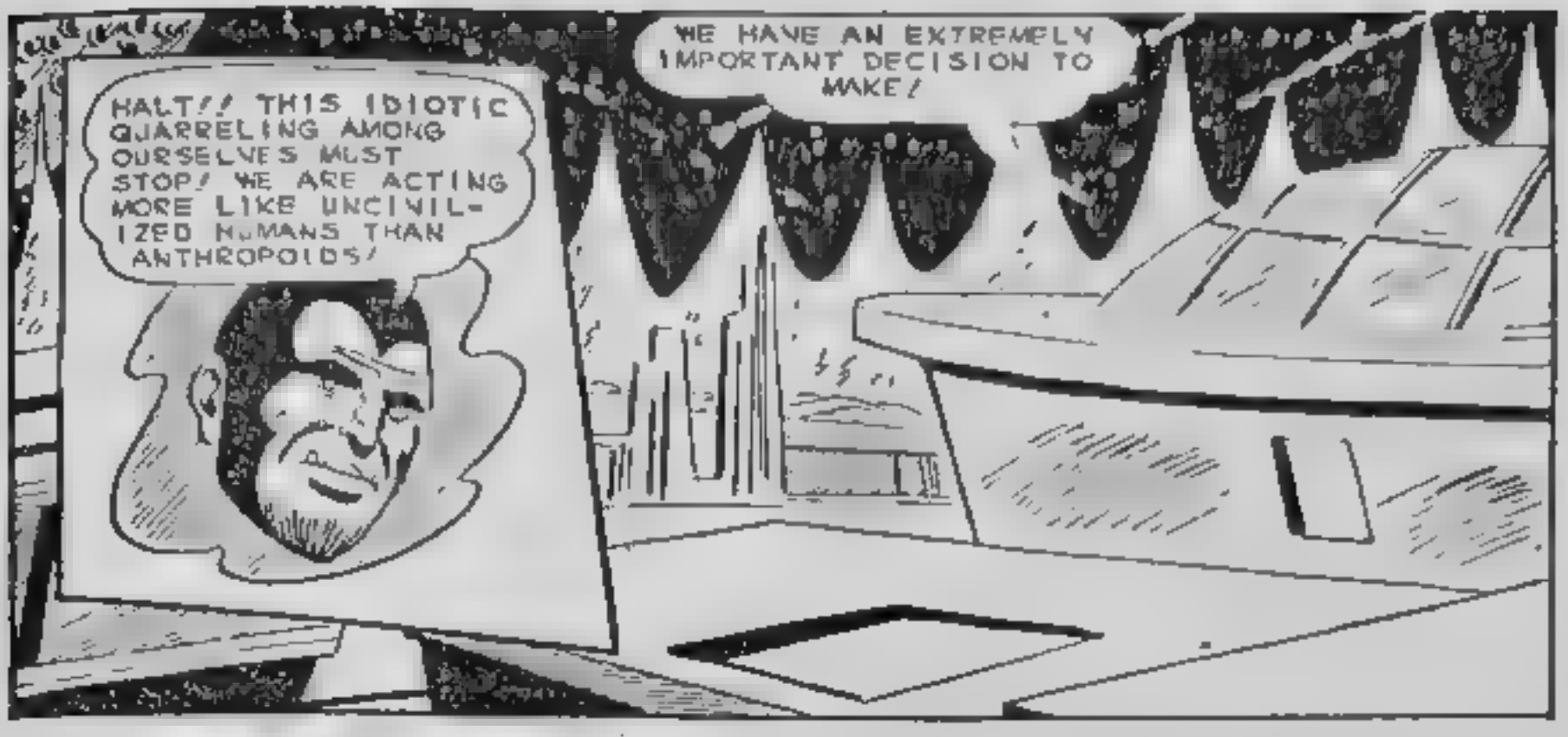
WE MUST! IT'S THE ONLY CHANCE THEY HAVE!
IF WE DELAY TOO LONG, WE'LL BE DOOMED!..

WE HAVE LESS THAN ONE EARTH YEAR IN TIME REMAINING TO US! WE MUST ACT BEFORE THE COLLISION WITH REPTON OCCURS! OTHERWISE IT WILL BE TOO LATE! ANTHRO WILL VANISH LIKE SO MUCH SMOKE!

IT'S EASY TO SAY FOR YOU! IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOUR DESIRE FOR UNNECESSARY WAR WE WOULDN'T BE IN THIS PREDICAMENT!
WHA???


HOW DARE YOU? IF YOU WEREN'T SO AFRAID TO USE THE DEATH RAY ON THE REPTONS WE WOULDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS AT ALL!
OF COURSE NOT! BUT WE WOULD HAVE DESTROYED MILLIONS OF CREATURES FOR NOTHING!!

INSTEAD THE WAR WENT ON FOR YEARS! AND CAUSED A SHIFT IN OUR ORBITAL PATTERN! NOW WE FACE DOOM BECAUSE OF YOU...!!

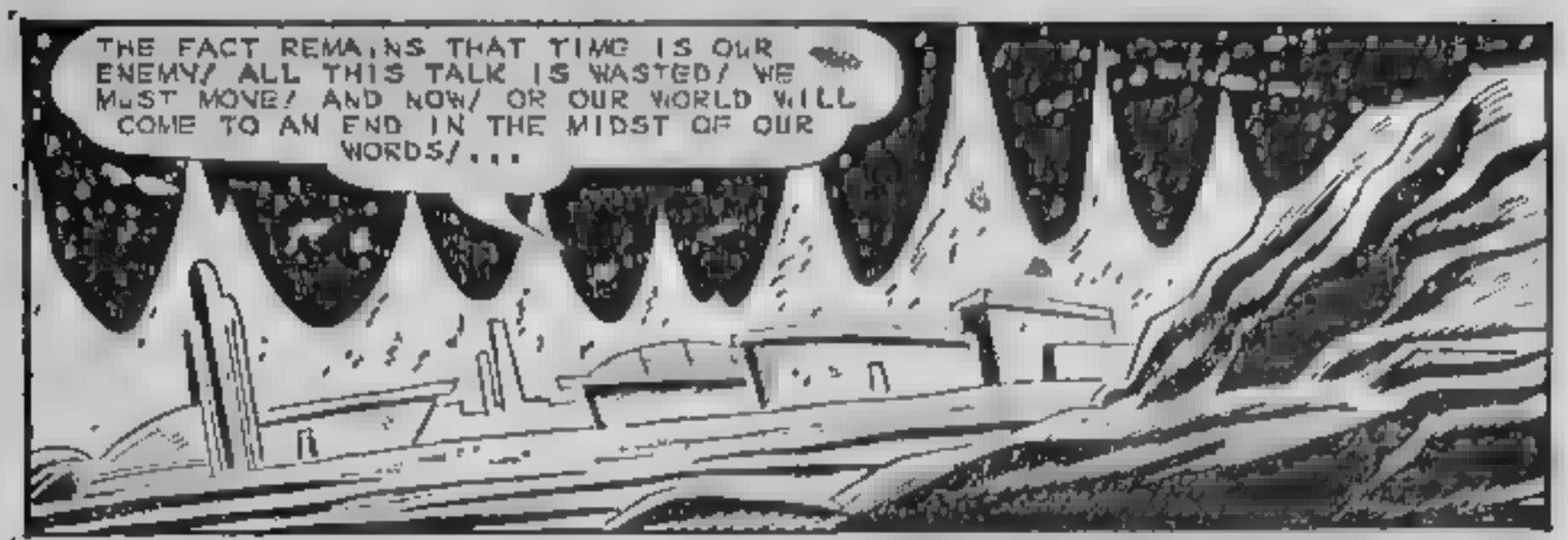

HALT!! THIS IDIOTIC QUARRELING AMONG OURSELVES MUST STOP! WE ARE ACTING MORE LIKE UNCIVILIZED HUMANS THAN ANTHROPOIDS!
WE HAVE AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT DECISION TO MAKE!

THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE WAY TO PROCEED! WE MUST DESTROY ALL EARTH'S INHABITANTS AND OCCUPY THE LAND! IT'S OUR ONLY SALVATION!

EXCELLENCY! PLEASE LISTEN! AS SOON AS WE CAN REFINE OUR BRAIN MODIFIER, DESTRUCTION WILL BE UNNECESSARY!

I AGREE WITH YOU, ABOUT THE TIME FACTOR! HOWEVER, I'D LIKE TO DO OUR JOB WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF HARM!...

WE MUST REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE MUCH IN COMMON WITH EARTHLINGS, EVEN THOUGH THEY [redacted] INFERIOR TO US! OUR BODIES HAVE NOT EVOLVED AS WELL AS THEIRS! BUT THEIR MINDS STILL LAG FAR BEYOND OUR OWN DEVELOPMENT! THERE IS MUCH TO BE GAINED FROM BOTH OF US!


THE FACT REMAINS THAT TIME IS OUR ENEMY/ ALL THIS TALK IS WASTED/ WE MUST MOVE/ AND NOW/ OR OUR WORLD WILL COME TO AN END IN THE MIDST OF OUR WORDS/...

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO SETTLE THIS/

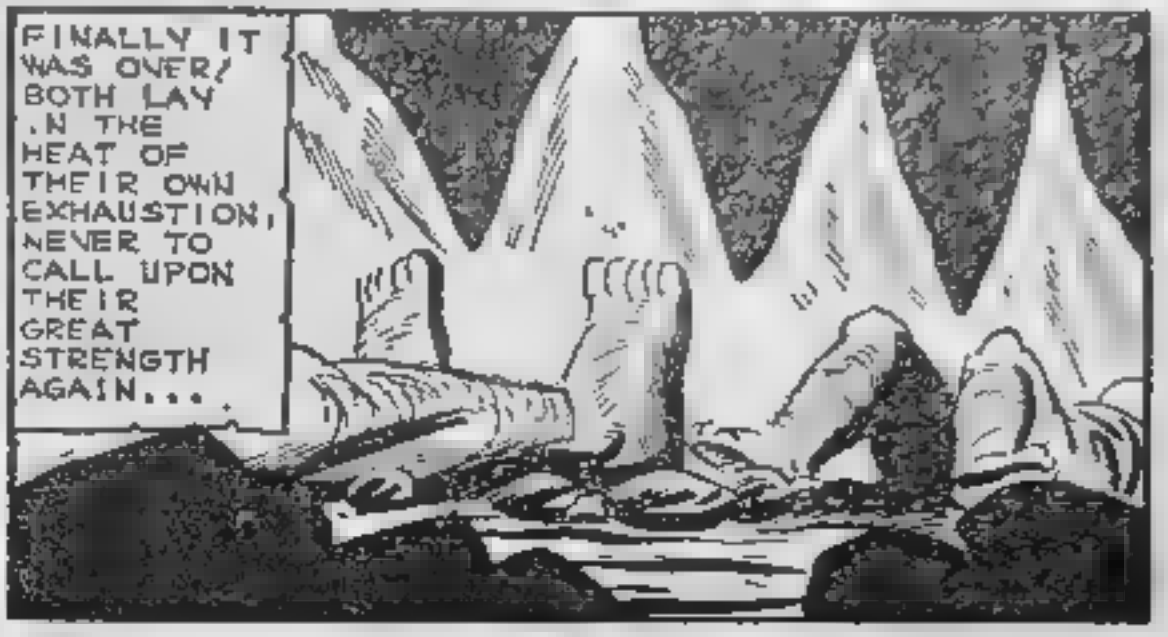
I CLAIM THE TRADITIONAL RIGHT OF-ANTHRO/ A FIGHT OF GIANTS MUST TAKE PLACE TO DECIDE THE MATTER/
BUT---

IT IS THE LAW OF OUR LAND/ UNRESOLVED DISPUTES ARE TO BE SETTLED THIS WAY/ YOU FORCE ME TO RESORT TO PRIMITIVE MEANS/
IT IS TRUE...

A FEW ANTHRO DAYS LATER...
SO BE IT//

AND SO IT WAS...THE GIANT ANTHROPOIDS ENTERED COMBAT... BOTH PREPARED TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH BEHIND THIS AGE-OLD MATCH OF STRENGTH ON THE PLANET ANTHRO HUNG THE FATE OF EARTH AND ALL HUMANS...

THE BATTLE RAGED ON HOUR AFTER HOUR...EACH CREATURE INVESTING EVERY OUNCE OF POWER AGAINST THE OTHER... THERE COULD BE ONLY ONE VICTOR...


FINALLY IT WAS OVER/ BOTH LAY IN THE HEAT OF THEIR OWN EXHAUSTION, NEVER TO CALL UPON THEIR GREAT STRENGTH AGAIN...

THE MORTAL COMBAT HAD BEEN FOR NOTHING/..AND AGAIN THE TWO FORCES OF ARGUMENT MET...
NOW!!!
NO!!

THEY QUARRELED...THEY FOUGHT...AND THEN IT WAS TOO LATE...THE EXPLOSION IN THE FARAWAY SKY SEEMED LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN A SHOOTING STAR TO THE FEW EARTHLINGS...WHO HAPPENED TO BE WATCHING...
END

SUME HERO! THAT'S THE ONLY THING YOU COULD SAY ABOUT HENRY T. RODERICK, BUT THEN HE HAD TO GO AND DEVELOP THAT STRANGE POWER OF HIS... THE AMAZING POWER THAT MADE HIM SAY...

"The PRESSURE is all MINE!"

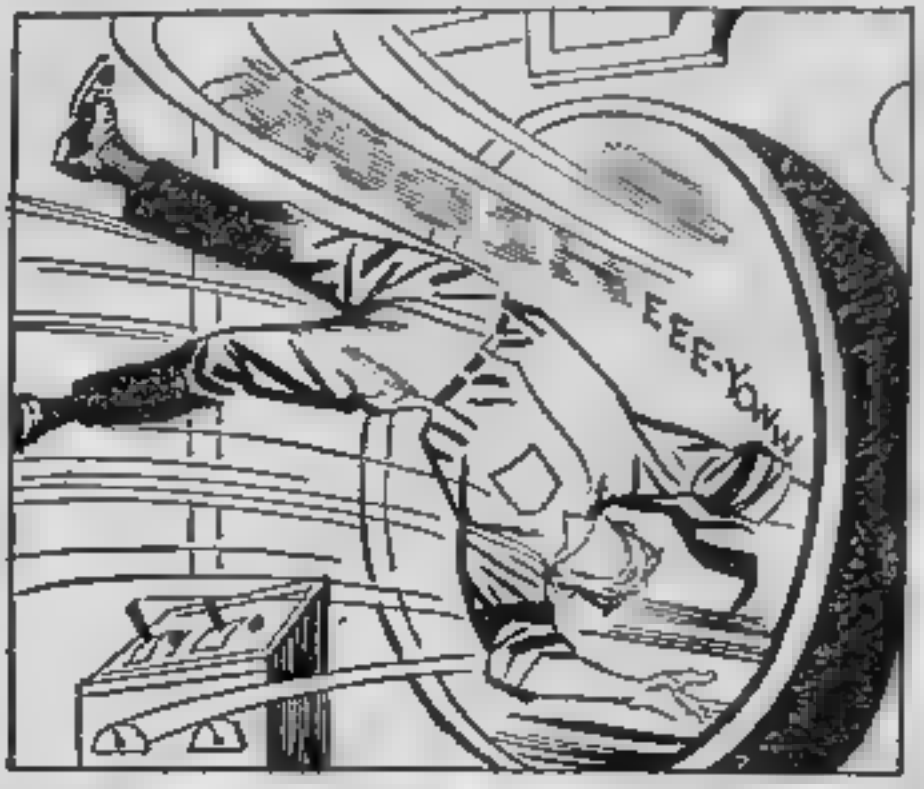
STORY: CHARLES LAPOSTE
ART: PAUL REINMAN

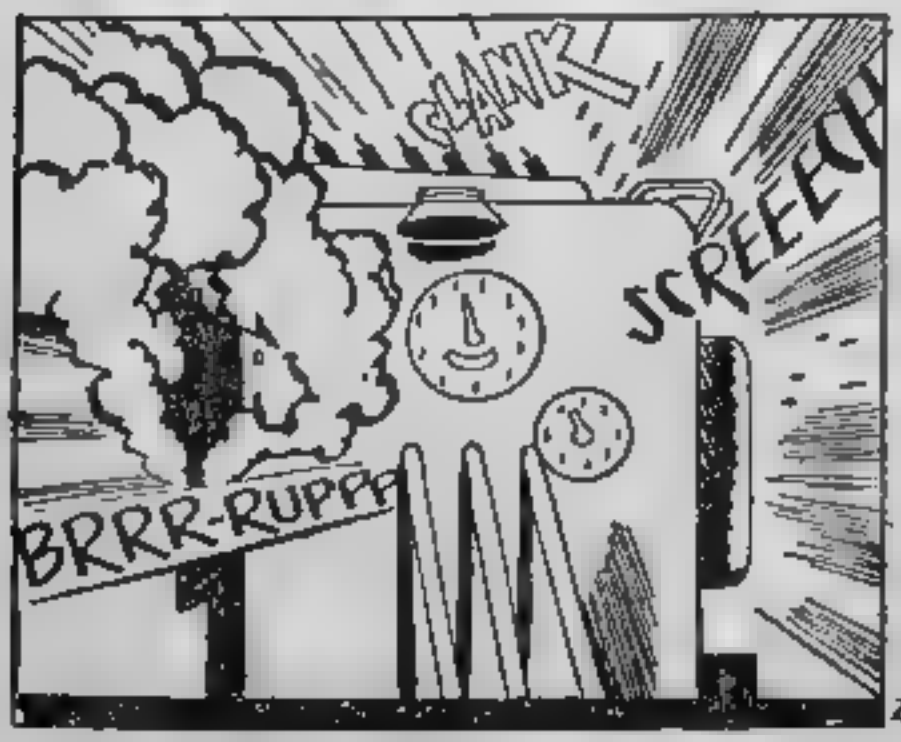
WELL, HENRY HAD TO GET THE MONEY TO GET MARRIED ON SOMEHOW.
SOME FOLKS MAKE MONEY OUT OF THEIR SIDELINES. MY I'VE MADE A HOBBY OUT OF MECHANICS. I'VE ALWAYS TINKERED WITH LITTLE INVENTIONS. SO JUST SUPPOSE I COULD COME UP WITH A BIG INVENTION..
HENRY T. RODERICK

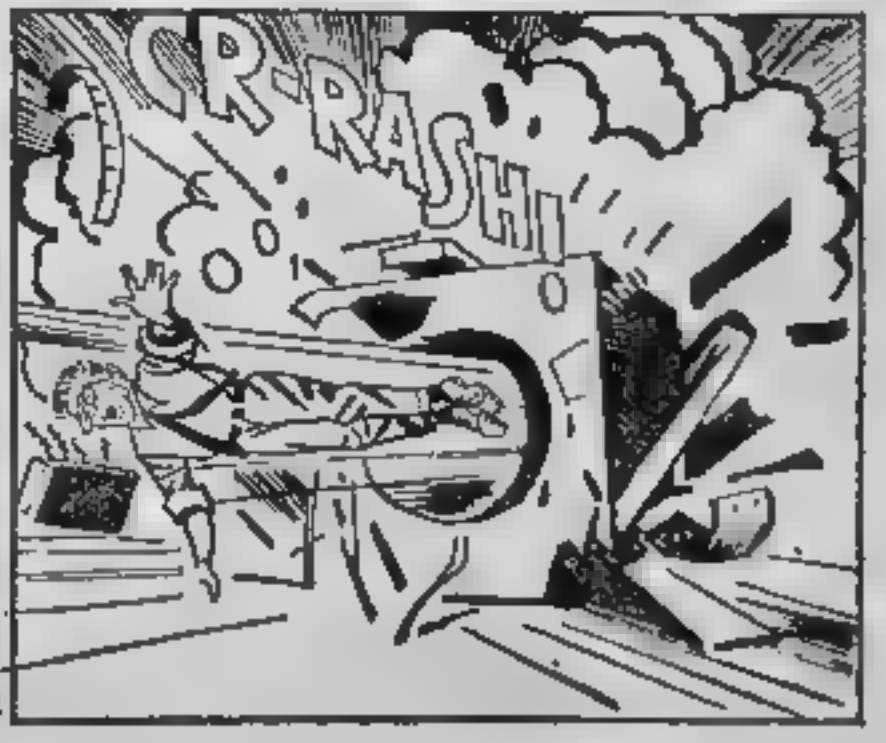
AT HOME, HE PLANNED... AND THOUGHT.
I THINK IT WOULD WORK! USING THAT PRINCIPLE, I JUST MIGHT COME UP WITH A MACHINE THAT COULD PURIFY AIR IN LARGE QUANTITIES!

IT TOOK EVERY CENT OF HIS MEAGER SAVINGS AND ALL HIS SPARE TIME -- BUT HE BUILT HIS MACHINE. HE STAYED UP ALL THROUGH THE LAST NIGHT FINISHING IT -- AND JUST BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE BANK -
I CAN'T WAIT TO FIND OUT IF IT WILL WORK. I'LL GIVE IT A MINUTE'S TRYOUT BEFORE I GO

IT WORKS! JUST LOOK AT THAT AIR BEING SUCKED IN AT THE INTAKE ORIFICE. I'LL TURN IT UP TO ITS HIGHEST POWER AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
SWISH
BRRR-RRR
RUGGA-RUGGA-RUGG


EEE-YOWW


CLANK
SCREEECH
BRRR-RUPPP


CR-RASH!

WHY I MIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED! I'M SO WEAK—HAVE TO LEAN AGAINST THE WALL—MY STRENGTH BACK

YOWP!— W-WHAT'S HAPPENING? I'M

HEY! WHAT

I—I'M SORRY. I D-DIDN'T MEAN—
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR ASSAULTING AN OFFICER!

I—I'LL BE LATE FOR THE BANK—WHAT'LL I DO? MR. MUGWUMP—HE'LL FIRE ME—

WHAT THE—ALL I DID WAS PUT A LITTLE PRESSURE ON THE WALL! MY MACHINE MUST HAVE DONE THIS TO ME!

I'VE GOT TO KEEP MR. MUGWUMP FROM FINDING OUT ABOUT THIS STRANGE NEW POWER OF MINE, OR I'LL BE FIRED. HE'D NEVER KEEP ANYONE IN HIS EMPLOY WHO WASN'T NORMAL IN EVERY WAY!

HE GOT TO THE BANK LATE···

I—I WAS HELD UP BECAUSE OF THE PRESSURE ···UH···I MEAN··· ALL I DID WAS PRESS AGAINST IT AND···THAT IS···

LISTEN, YOU, YOU'VE BEEN ACTING MIGHTY STRANGE LATELY! ONE MORE ODD-BALL THING OUT OF YOU AND YOU'RE THROUGH, SEE?

BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT ON MR. MUGWUMP'S MIND···SHOWING OFF THE BIG NEW VAULT THAT HAD JUST BEEN INSTALLED···

YES SIR, IT'S COMPLETELY BURGLAR-PROOF. TOMORROW STARTS A 3-DAY WEEKEND, AND I'VE SET THE TIME CONTROLS. WHEN THIS DOOR CLOSES, NOT EVEN AN ATOM BOMB COULD OPEN IT FOR THE NEXT 3 DAYS!

BUT SUPPOSE SOMEONE WAS LOCKED UP INSIDE IT? THE AIR WOULDN'T LAST FOR THAT LENGTH OF TIME ···THEY'D BE KILLED!

TUT, TUT···MODERN SCIENCE THINKS OF EVERYTHING! THERE ARE CONTROLS IN THE INTERIOR ALLOWING THE VAULT DOOR TO BE OPENED FROM THE INSIDE!

THEN HE TURNED ASIDE, NOT NOTICING THE LITTLE CHILD WHO WALKED PAST HIM···AND INTO THE INTERIOR OF THE VAULT···

NOW I'LL SHOW YOU HOW THE DOOR CLOSES···

LOOK OUT, MR. MUGWUMP! DON'T···

SOMETHING?

THERE··· THERE'S A CHILD IN THAT VAULT! YOU'VE LOCKED HIM IN!

CLICK!

YOU'VE GOT TO GET IT OPEN RIGHT AWAY!

THAT CHILD CAN'T LAST IN THERE··· THE AIR WILL GO BAD!

BUT I CAN'T! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE ···NOBODY CAN OPEN IT FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS! AND THE CONTROLS THAT WILL OPEN THE VAULT FROM THE INSIDE ARE TOO HIGH FOR A KID TO REACH!

OH, DO SOMETHING, HENRY DARLING! THIS PRESSURE··· IT'S AWFUL···

BUT WHAT CAN I DO? .. WAIT A SECOND ···DID I HEAR YOU SAY PRESSURE?

I KNOW HOW I CAN DO IT! BUT - BUT IF I SHOW THIS - THIS ABNORMALITY OF MINE MR McGWIMP WON'T WANT ME AROUND ANYMORE I'LL BE FIRED ...I CAN NEVER MARRY NELL BUT HANG IT, THERE'S A CHILD'S LIFE AT STAKE - I'VE GOT TO DO IT!

WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE? CLEAR OUT OR...
STAND ASIDE YOU IDIOT!

JUST THE PRESSURE OF HIS BODY - AND THE COLD STEEL YIELDED
HOLY SMOKE, LOOK!
HE HE'S GOING RIGHT THROUGH THE VAULT DOOR!
WHERE HE PRESSES AGAINST IT...HIS BODY SEEMS TO DISAPPEAR!

THERE, THERE, SONNY, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW!...LET'S SEE...THE DIRECTIONS SAY TO THROW THIS LEVER...

HURRAH! HE DID IT!
WHAT THE...IT'S MY SON! I...I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE'D COME INTO THE BANK!

I DON'T KNOW HOW, HENRY...BUT YOU DID IT!
SURE...AND I DID MYSELF OUT OF A JOB AT THE SAME TIME.
YOU CAN FORGET THAT. BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU'VE JUST DONE FOR ME, I'M MAKING YOU A VICE-PRESIDENT ...AND TRIPLING YOUR SALARY!

OH, DARLING... I COULD JUST HUG YOU TO DEATH!
DARN RIGHT YOU COULD! JUST LOOK WHAT THE PRESSURE IS DOING TO ME!

TRAIN ROBBERS

THE little puffer-belly chugged along on silver rails beside the river. Balls of grey wood smoke puffed from its funnel stack and rose above the rocky cliffs.

Suddenly, seven masked riders appeared as if from nowhere, scrambling their horses down the steep incline toward the track. A shot! The grinding of brakes! The locomotive, coming slowly to a halt, and then the train was swarming with masked men. Another successful train robbery by the notorious Seven Brothers was pulled.

In the mining town of Big Hope, the sheriff tilted back his chair and twirled a pair of handcuffs before speaking. "I just got a wire from Riverdale. The Seven Brothers held up another train. When the engineer didn't stop it quite fast enough to suit them, they pumped him full of lead. Those owlhoots are plumb dynamite."

"The law should protect those trains," said Foxy Williams.

The lawman stared across his desk. His lips were firmly pressed together, his eyebrows were lowered in a frown. Then his lips opened, and he gave a slow, low mirthless laugh. "The law isn't an army, and you'd need an army to stop those sidewinders."

"But there are only seven of them," protested Foxy. "Surely . . ."

"Certainly there are only seven," cut in the sheriff. "But you don't know where they're going to strike next. The law would have to put a crew of deputies on every train that's running in the west. And they'd have to be picked men. Real good men! It's not possible."

Foxy stroked his chin and looked thoughtful. He was a small man, less than medium height and rather slender. Foxy had got that front handle because he was a man of cleverness and imagination. He was famous for finding ways to succeed where others failed. He said, "Well, sheriff, I was planning to ask you for a crew of deputies to guard a train for me. I aim to ship out silver from the mine, and I don't aim to ship it straight to the Seven Brothers."

"No dice," said the sheriff. "I can't spare the men. Besides, if I did it for you, I'd have to do it for every other person who asked me. I'd sure like to help you, but that's how it is. No hard feelings?"

"No hard feelings," said Foxy, getting up and gripping the sheriff's big, brown hand. "If you can't, you can't. Besides I'll figure out something." He started for the door. He had it open when the slow-speaking lawman called, "If I were you, I'd hire Bull's-eye Derring to guard the stuff. He's in town. Over at the Cattlemen's House. He's better than seven deputies, anyway."

It was days later. Foxy, himself, was at the throttle as the locomotive hauling the silver chugged easily along on the flat stretch between the river and the cliffs. Opposite Foxy, peering out of the cab through a telescope, was a bronzed six-footer whose hard muscles bulged his checkered shirt. Foxy grumbled, "We'd be making better time if you hadn't insisted on hitching up that logging car, Bull's-eye. That big chain is a heavy load all by itself."

"True," said Bull's-eye.

"Well, let's uncouple it and . . ."

A shot interrupted. A slug splattered against the side of the iron horse. Then Foxy saw them —seven masked men, scrambling their horses down the steep cliffside, scattering loose pebbles and shale as they came. "Stop the train!" ordered one of the bandits.

Foxy was excited, but not nervous. As he calmly swung an iron shutter into place across the cab window he called to Bull's-eye, "Put up your shutter. Here they are. Fireman, throw plenty of wood in the firebox. We're putting on steam! The throttle's going to be wide open! We're going to see if those ornery, Seven Brothers can storm *this* fort! This rolling fort!"

With the shield-like shutters in place, the locomotive cab did become a small fort. Bullets rained against the metal, but instead of obeying the robbers' order to stop, the train picked up speed. Through a slit in the armor, Bull's-eye fired his Colt .45 and managed to wing two of the bandits before they gave up and fled back up the rocky trail.

The whole flurry was over in a few minutes. Foxy was chuckling as he opened one of the shutters. "I reckon I really outsmarted the Seven Brothers. It was real brainy of me to fix up this engine like a fort. And to put the silver in a car that had the safe. I reckon our cargo's out of danger now."

"It is," agreed Bull's-eye.

"You bet it is," chuckled Foxy.

"Till they come back," drawled Bull's-eye.

The train was puffing up a slight grade, heading from the open plains toward a forest. Bull's-eye was still sweeping the landscape with his telescope. Foxy said, "Relax, can't you? We've demoralized the Seven Brothers. Won't be any more trouble from them."

"Listen!" said Bull's-eye.

"Listen?" Foxy looked puzzled. "I can't hear anything but this wheezing fort-on-wheels. What do you hear?"

"An axe," responded Bull's-eye. "Somebody up ahead is swinging an axe."

"What of it? Just some lumbermen at work and . . ."

The train had entered the forest. Up ahead a tree came crashing down, across the rails. Three masked gunmen stood beside the fallen tree. With an oath, Foxy put on the brakes. The train ground to a halt, it's cowcatcher just nudging the bark. Once again the shield shutters were whipped into place, and once more Bull's-eye kept the robbers at a distance with his accurate fire.

"The fools!" fumed Foxy. "This isn't going to get them anywhere. They can't break in here. They can't get at the silver."

"But we're trapped," said Bull's-eye.

Foxy's eyes lighted up. "No we're not. This thing goes in reverse. We'll just back up, return to the mine, get a gang of workmen and . . ."

Once more he was interrupted. This time there was a crash from behind. He looked back and groaned. A hundred yards behind the silver train another tree had been felled across the tracks. "We are trapped!" moaned Foxy. "Well, it won't do them any good. They still can't get the silver."

The masked men were carefully keeping out of range of Bull's-eye's guns. Four others joined the three who had been standing near the first fallen tree. They seemed to confer. Then they rode off into the woods. "They're gone!" said Foxy. "Let's go out and see if we can pull that tree off the track."

"Sit tight!" commanded Bull's-eye. "That's what they want. Soon as you showed your head they'd shoot it off. Besides, we can't move that tree with our bare hands. Sit tight."

"But what are they doing? Why did they go away?"

"They'll wait out of sight till dark, then they'll come back and smoke us out," said Bull's-eye. "They'll build a fire under us."

Foxy frowned. "I'll have to think of something."

"I've already thought of something," said Bull's-eye. "You sit tight till dark, then do what I tell you. We'll have a fighting chance."

Just past sunset, when the evening was gray, Bull's-eye slipped from the cab on the river side. Soon he had the log chain hooked to the tree. He gave a low whistle, "Whip-poo-will!"

Foxy heard the signal. He started backing the locomotive, slowly. The chain tightened, tugged. The big tree began to slide. Huffing and puffing, the locomotive pulled it, till the trunk was edgewise along the track, but off the rails. Bull's-eye unhooked the chain from the locomotive and yelled, "Full speed ahead!" just as he heard the hoofs and shouts coming up from the woods.

THE engine chugged forward, scraping the big tree, cracking off branches, but plowing ahead. In desperation, the Seven Brothers triggered a fusilade of shots at the fleeing train. One of the masked men spurred his horse, leaped to the logging car, and climbed aboard. Bull's-eye, who had caught the same car from the opposite side a moment before, kayoed him with one blow. The man sprawled unconscious on the flatcar. "When he comes to, he'll either tell us where his brothers' hide-out is, or he'll hang for murder. I think he'll tell us," thought Bull's-eye. All the while he was popping his pistol at the receding Six Brothers, while the train sped on into the night and out of the forest.

In the locomotive cab, Foxy was muttering, "I should change my name. Bull's-eye is the real foxy one! He saved my silver."

"He sure is," said the fireman. THE END

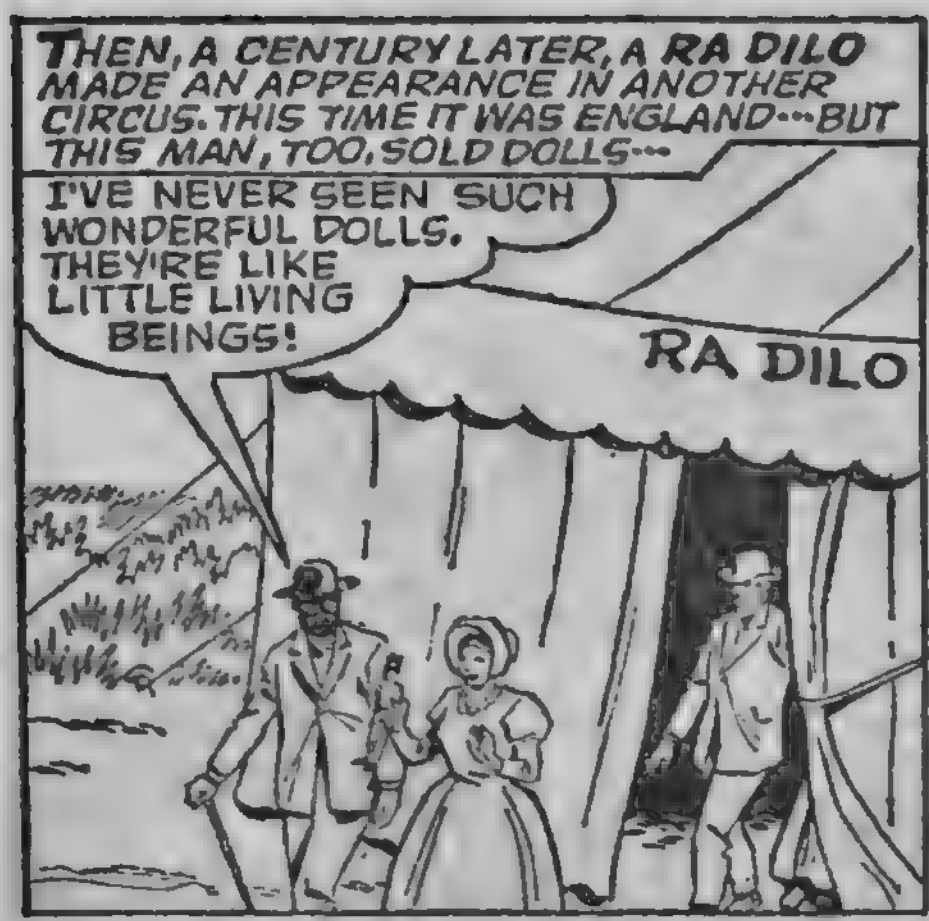
THE LITTLE CREATURES HE MADE LOOKED LIKE REAL PEOPLE ... AND SOMETIMES THEY EVEN SPOKE! WERE THEY PEOPLE? THAT WAS THE STRANGE SECRET OF...

The SELLER of DOLLS!

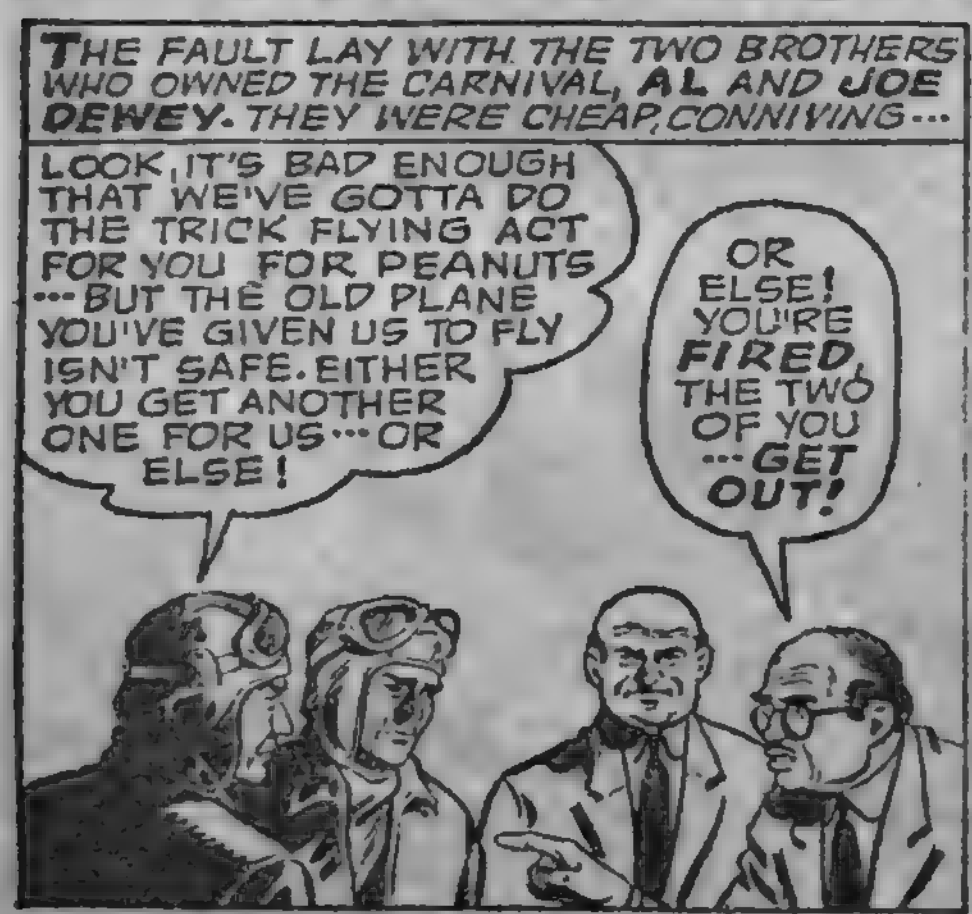
THAT'S ENOUGH, OLD MAN. YOU'VE FINISHED ME...

THAT DOLL... IT... IT'S ME! IT EVEN SPOKE IN MY VOICE!

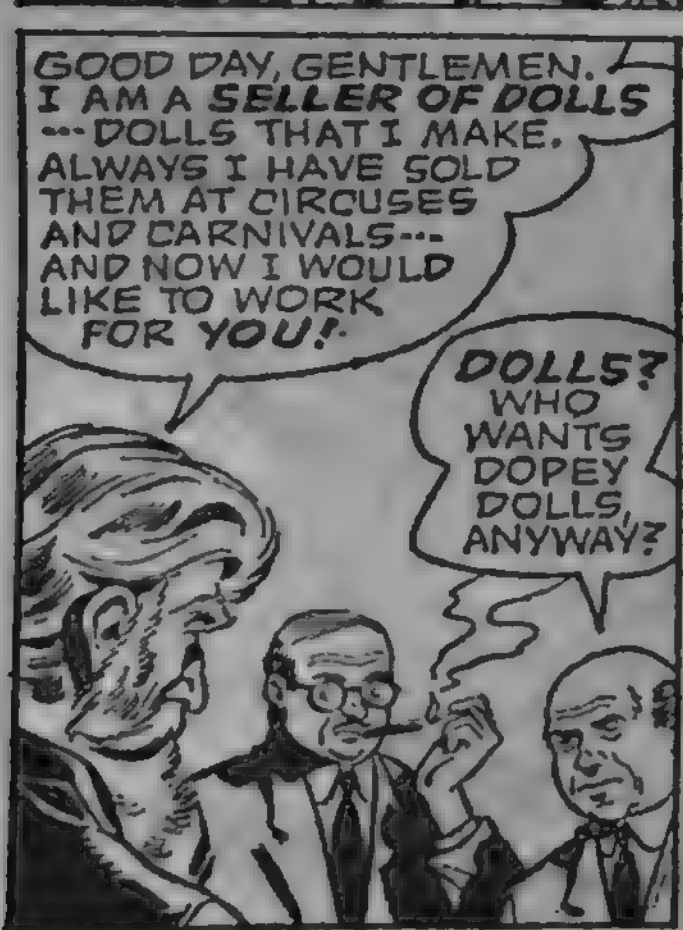
STORY: LAFCADIO LEE
ART: BOB JENNEY


THEN, A CENTURY LATER, A RA DILO MADE AN APPEARANCE IN ANOTHER CIRCUS. THIS TIME IT WAS ENGLAND---BUT THIS MAN, TOO, SOLD DOLLS---
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH WONDERFUL DOLLS. THEY'RE LIKE LITTLE LIVING BEINGS!
RA DILO

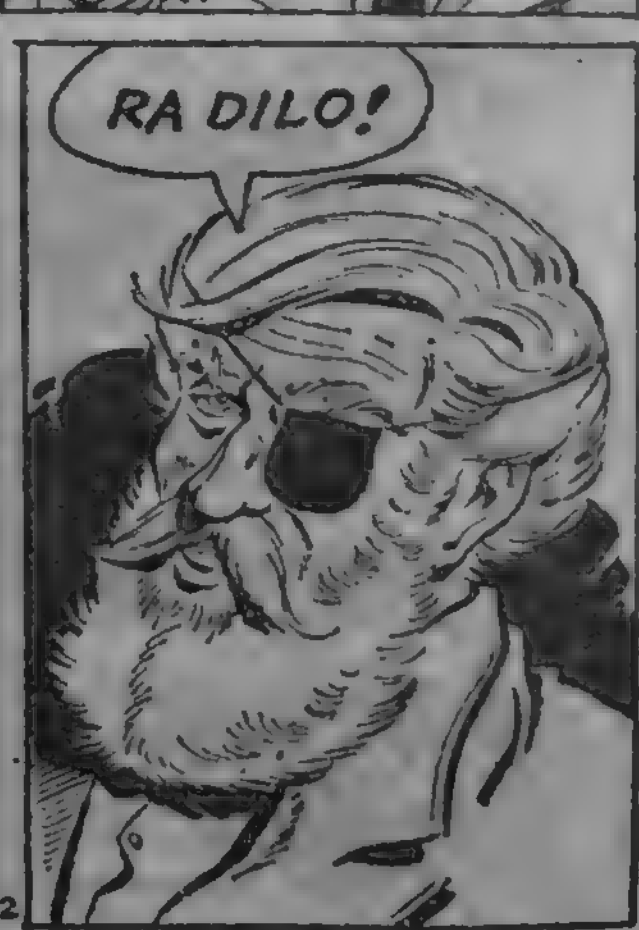
NOW THE YEAR IS 1920, THE COUNTRY AMERICA. THE DEWEY MAMMOTH TRAVELING CARNIVAL WAS A POOR OUTFIT---GOOD ACTS WOULDN'T SIGN WITH IT---
FREAK SHOW 10¢


THE FAULT LAY WITH THE TWO BROTHERS WHO OWNED THE CARNIVAL, AL AND JOE DEWEY. THEY WERE CHEAP, CONNIVING---
LOOK, IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT WE'VE GOTTA DO THE TRICK FLYING ACT FOR YOU FOR PEANUTS ---BUT THE OLD PLANE YOU'VE GIVEN US TO FLY ISN'T SAFE. EITHER YOU GET ANOTHER ONE FOR US---OR ELSE!
OR ELSE! YOU'RE FIRED, THE TWO OF YOU ---GET OUT!

IMAGINE THE NERVE---TELLIN' US HOW TO RUN OUR SHOW!
THERE'S AN OLD GUY OUTSIDE WANTS TO SEE YOU. SAYS HE'S GOT A GOOD PITCH FOR THE CARNIVAL---
WE CAN USE ONE. TELL HIM TO COME IN.


GOOD DAY, GENTLEMEN. I AM A SELLER OF DOLLS ---DOLLS THAT I MAKE. ALWAYS I HAVE SOLD THEM AT CIRCUSES AND CARNIVALS--- AND NOW I WOULD LIKE TO WORK FOR YOU!
DOLLS? WHO WANTS DOPEY DOLLS, ANYWAY?

MANY PEOPLE WILL WANT DOLLS LIKE THESE!
WELL, I'LL BE--- THEY LOOK AS IF THEY WERE ALIVE! YOU'RE HIRED, OLD MAN. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?


RA DILO!

BUT APPARENTLY THE OLD MAN'S DOLLS WERE TOO LIFELIKE FOR 20TH CENTURY BUYERS...

THEY'RE ...LIKE PEOPLE...

UGH...LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE. THEY GIVE ME THE SHUDDERS!

AT FIRST, THE DEWEY BROTHERS WEREN'T TOO AWARE OF THIS, BECAUSE BUSINESS WAS GENERALLY BAD AT THE CARNIVAL...

WE GOTTA THINK OF SOMETHING TO JAZZ THINGS UP.

YOU KNOW THAT ACT WE HAD...THE TRICK FLYING ONE? THAT WAS PRETTY GOOD...MAYBE WE OUGHTA REVIVE IT. LET'S PUT AN AD IN CARNIVAL MAG.

THE AD BROUGHT A QUICK REPLY...TED AND CORA MALONE, A HUSBAND-AND-WIFE TRICK FLYING TEAM...

A PRETTY GIRL IN THE ACT IS FINE...BUT YOU PEOPLE WANT TOO MUCH DOUGH.

WELL, AFTER ALL, WE HAVE TO RENT A PLANE, AND THAT COSTS SOMETHING.

FORGET IT... WE GOT A PLANE YOU CAN USE!

IS IT... SAFE?

WODDEYA MEAN, SAFE? WOULD WE SEND YOU UP IN A PLANE THAT WASN'T SAFE? YOU TAKE MY WORD, THIS PLANE'S PERFECT!

GRAND PREMIERE!

SATURDAY, JULY 16TH at 2 P.M.

The FLYING MALONES

in THEIR DEATH-DEFYING EXHIBIT OF TRICK FLYING

THE MALONES DIDN'T KNOW HOW UNSAFE THE OLD PLANE WAS THAT JOE AND AL DEWEY SO THOUGHTFULLY PROVIDED. CAME THE DAY OF THE GRAND PREMIERE...

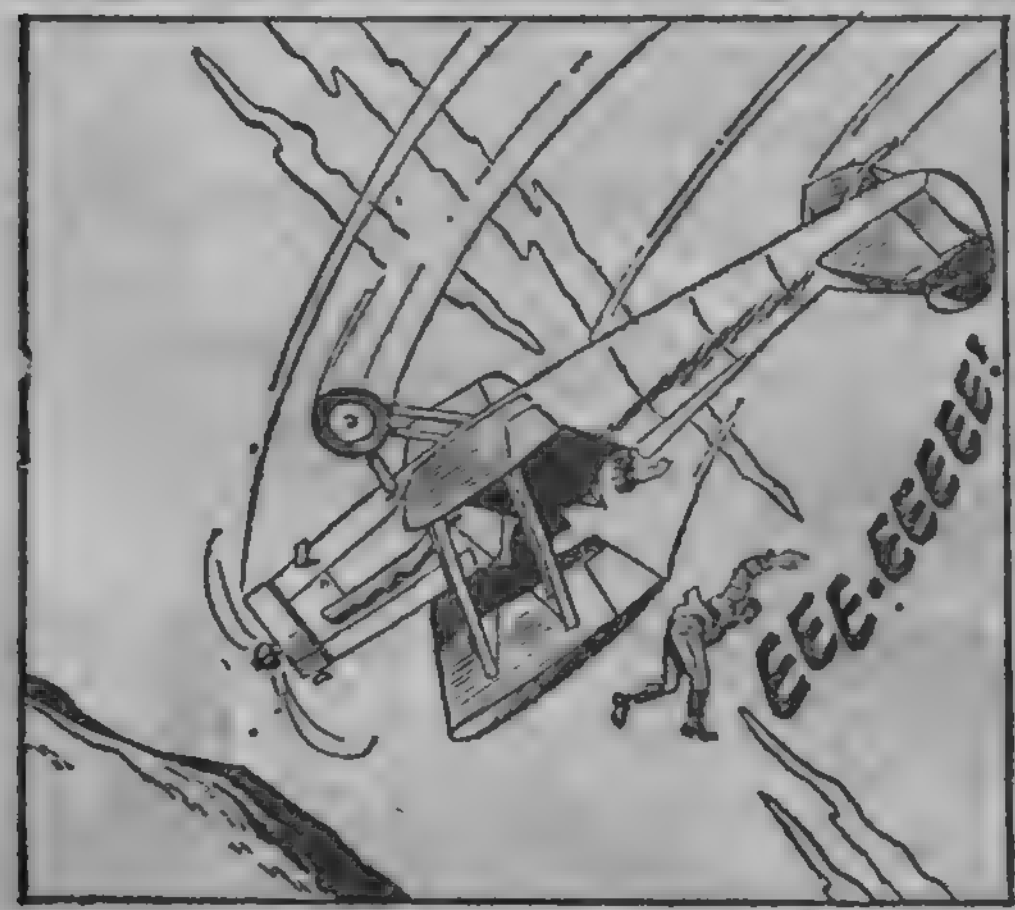
LET 'ER RIP, TED!

HURRAH!

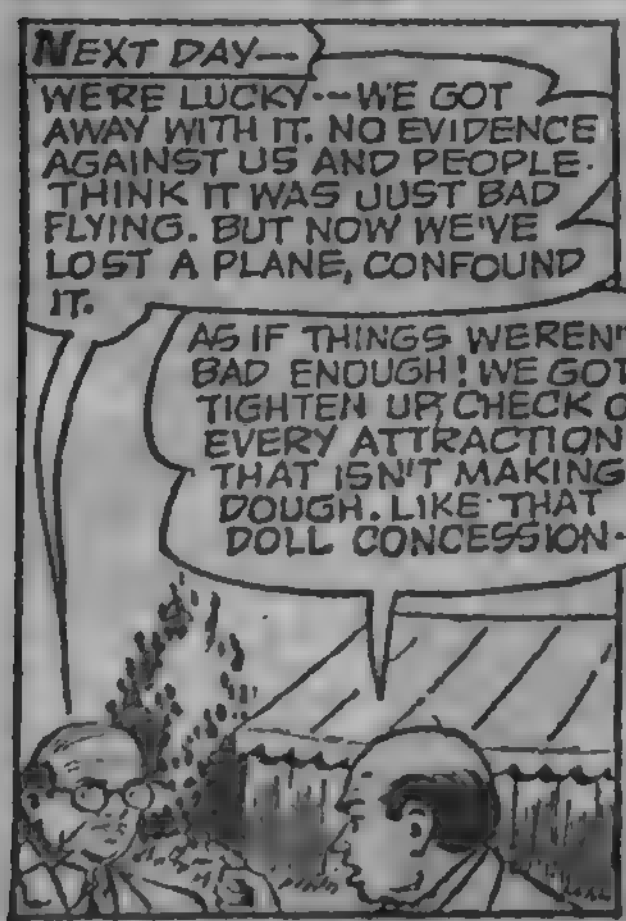
LOOK AT THAT PLANE LOOP ...AND SHE'S HANGING ON!

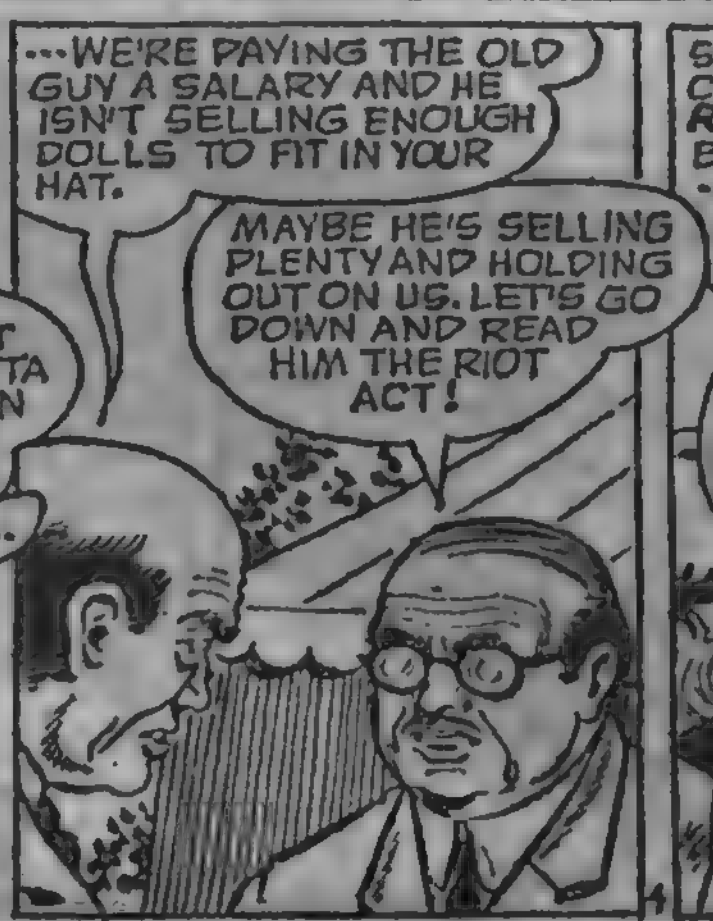
YAY!

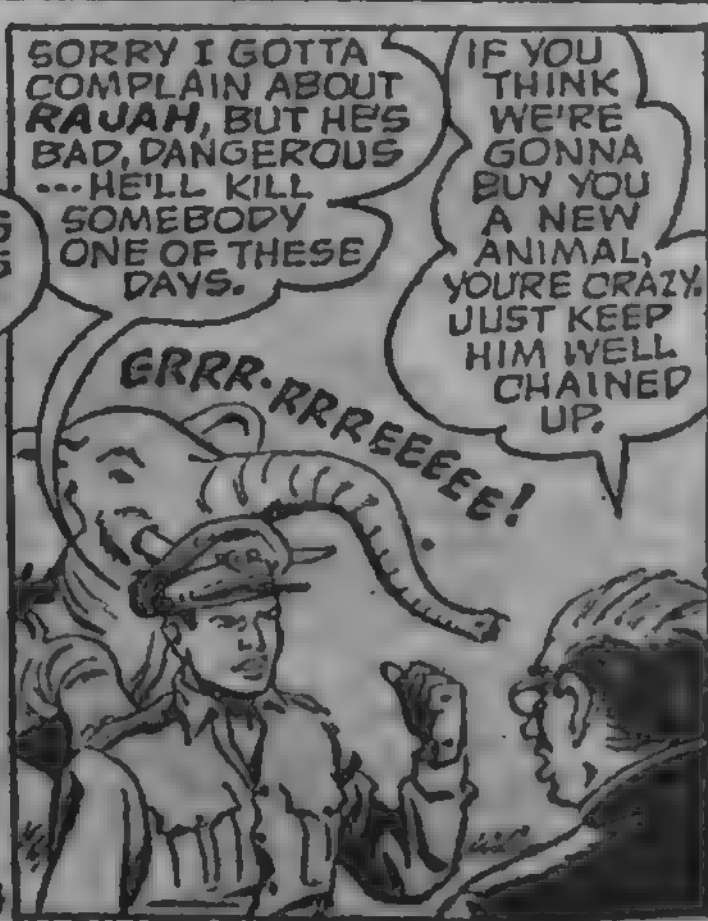
S-SOMETHING'S HAPPENED ...THE PLANE WON'T ANSWER THE CONTROLS...


EEE.EEEEE!

GR.RASH!


NEXT DAY--
WE'RE LUCKY--WE GOT AWAY WITH IT. NO EVIDENCE AGAINST US AND PEOPLE THINK IT WAS JUST BAD FLYING. BUT NOW WE'VE LOST A PLANE, CONFOUND IT.
AS IF THINGS WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH! WE GOTTA TIGHTEN UP, CHECK ON EVERY ATTRACTION THAT ISN'T MAKING DOUGH. LIKE THAT DOLL CONCESSION...


...WE'RE PAYING THE OLD GUY A SALARY AND HE ISN'T SELLING ENOUGH DOLLS TO FIT IN YOUR HAT.
MAYBE HE'S SELLING PLENTY AND HOLDING OUT ON US. LET'S GO DOWN AND READ HIM THE RIOT ACT!


SORRY I GOTTA COMPLAIN ABOUT RAJAH, BUT HE'S BAD, DANGEROUS ...HE'LL KILL SOMEBODY ONE OF THESE DAYS.
IF YOU THINK WE'RE GONNA BUY YOU A NEW ANIMAL, YOU'RE CRAZY. JUST KEEP HIM WELL CHAINED UP.
ERRR.RRREEEEE!

YOU'RE NOT FOOLING US, RA DILO. WE KNOW YOU'RE HOLDING BACK ON US, STEALING OUR MONEY!
HOW DARE YOU ACCUSE ME OF THEFT? TAKE THAT BACK!

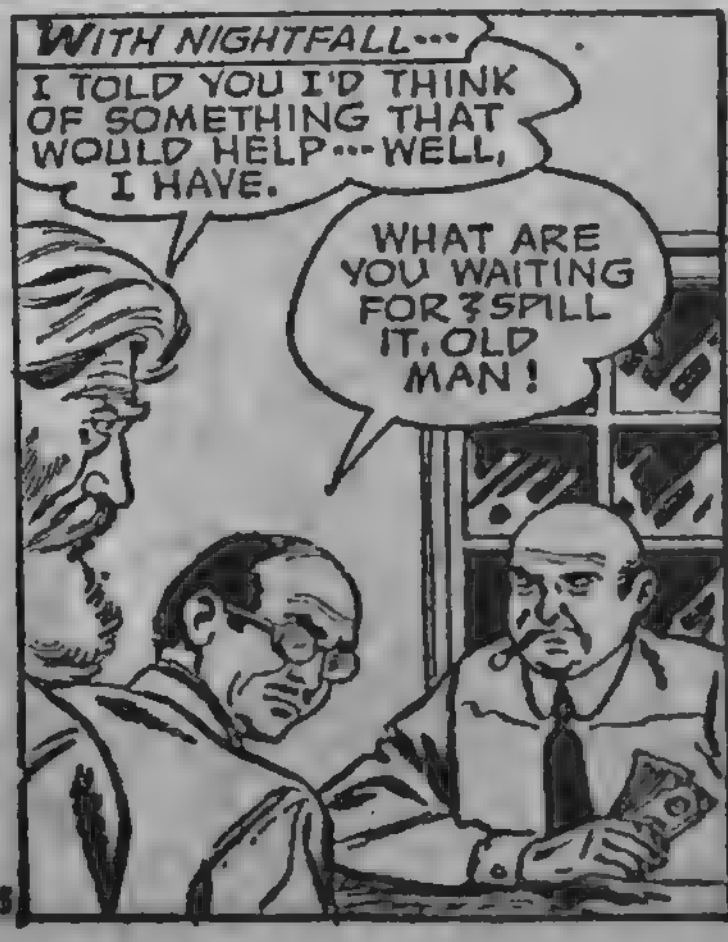
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW I TAKE IT BACK...
WHAM!

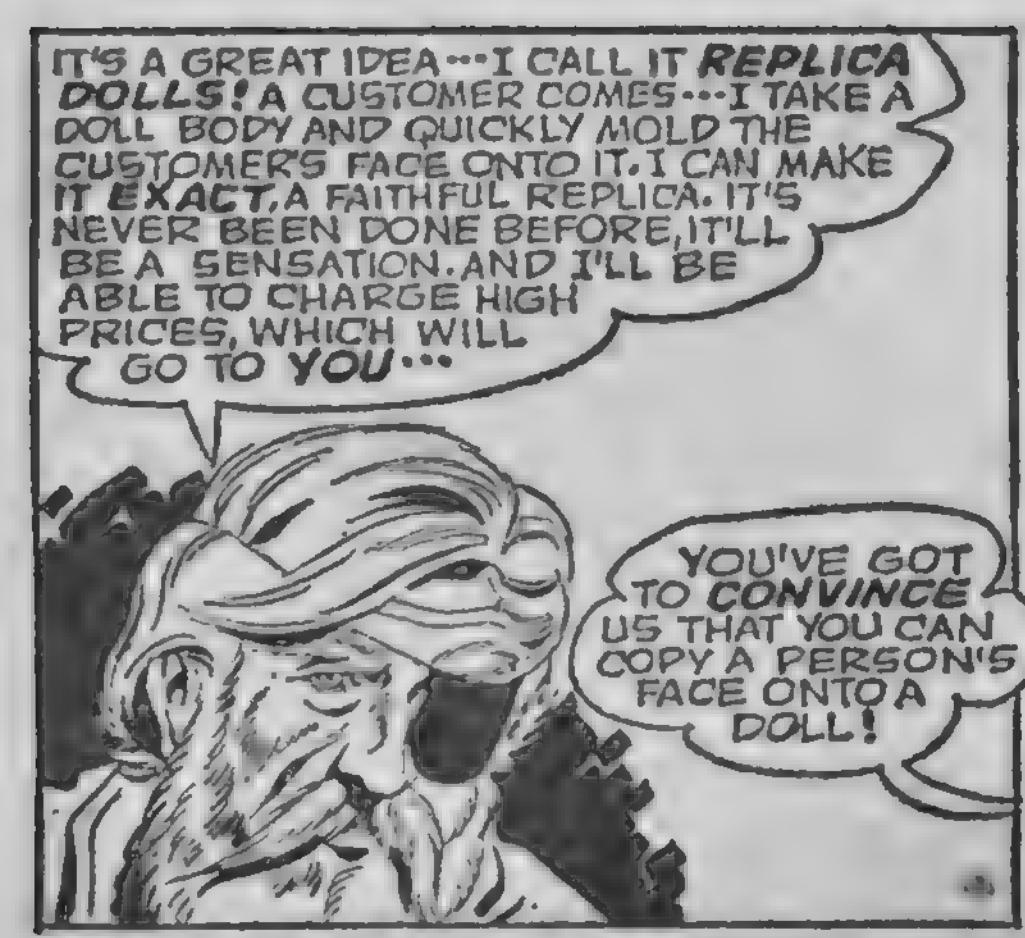
ME TOO!
POW!
OH-HHH!

WELL, YOU STUPID OLD FOSSIL? GOT ANY MORE FANCY IDEAS ABOUT TELLING US OFF?
NO. NEVER FEAR... I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE YOU BOTH VERY, VERY HAPPY...

WHEN THE DEWEY BROTHERS HAD LEFT...
I MUST MOVE ON... INTO NEW PLACES, NEW TIMES. BUT BEFORE I DO... THERE'S SOMETHING THAT MUST BE DONE!

OH, RULERS OF THE UNKNOWN! GIVE ME YOUR STRANGE POWERS...


WITH NIGHTFALL...
I TOLD YOU I'D THINK OF SOMETHING THAT WOULD HELP... WELL, I HAVE.
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? SPILL IT, OLD MAN!


IT'S A GREAT IDEA---I CALL IT REPLICA DOLLS! A CUSTOMER COMES---I TAKE A DOLL BODY AND QUICKLY MOLD THE CUSTOMER'S FACE ONTO IT. I CAN MAKE IT EXACT, A FAITHFUL REPLICA. IT'S NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE, IT'LL BE A SENSATION. AND I'LL BE ABLE TO CHARGE HIGH PRICES, WHICH WILL GO TO YOU...
YOU'VE GOT TO CONVINCE US THAT YOU CAN COPY A PERSON'S FACE ONTO A DOLL!

WELL?
I'LL...BE...DURNED! IT'S US, AL---THE OLD GEEZER CAN DO IT!

THEY WERE HAPPY TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSITION. THEY WENT TO BED HIGHLY PLEASED---WITH THE REPLICA DOLLS BETWEEN THEM---

ZZZ-ZZZZZZ
IT IS TIME--

HURRY---WE HAVE WORK TO DO!

WE'LL GET RID OF THESE FALSE FACES---

...AND LET THEM SEE WHO WE REALLY ARE!

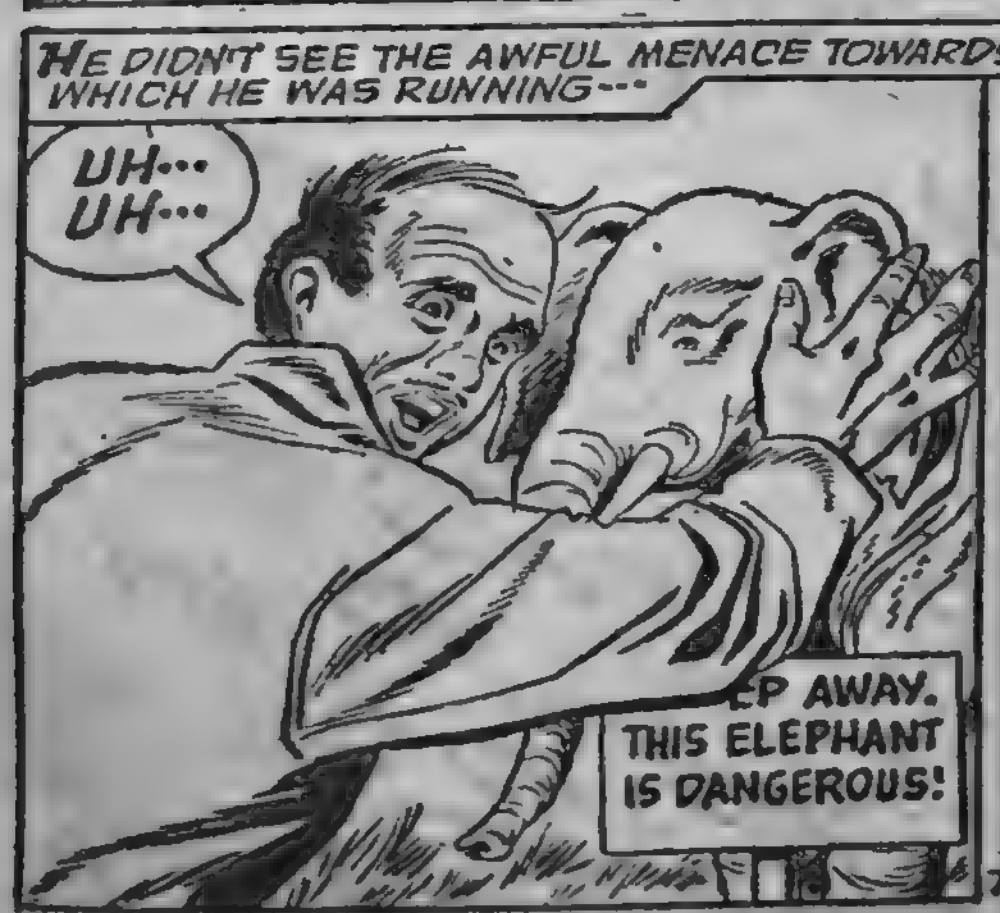
GET UP, YOU KILLER···UP!
HUH? WHAT IS THIS, ANYWAY···?

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE MAN YOU MURDERED?
EEEE-EEEEE! IT···IT'S TED MALONE!

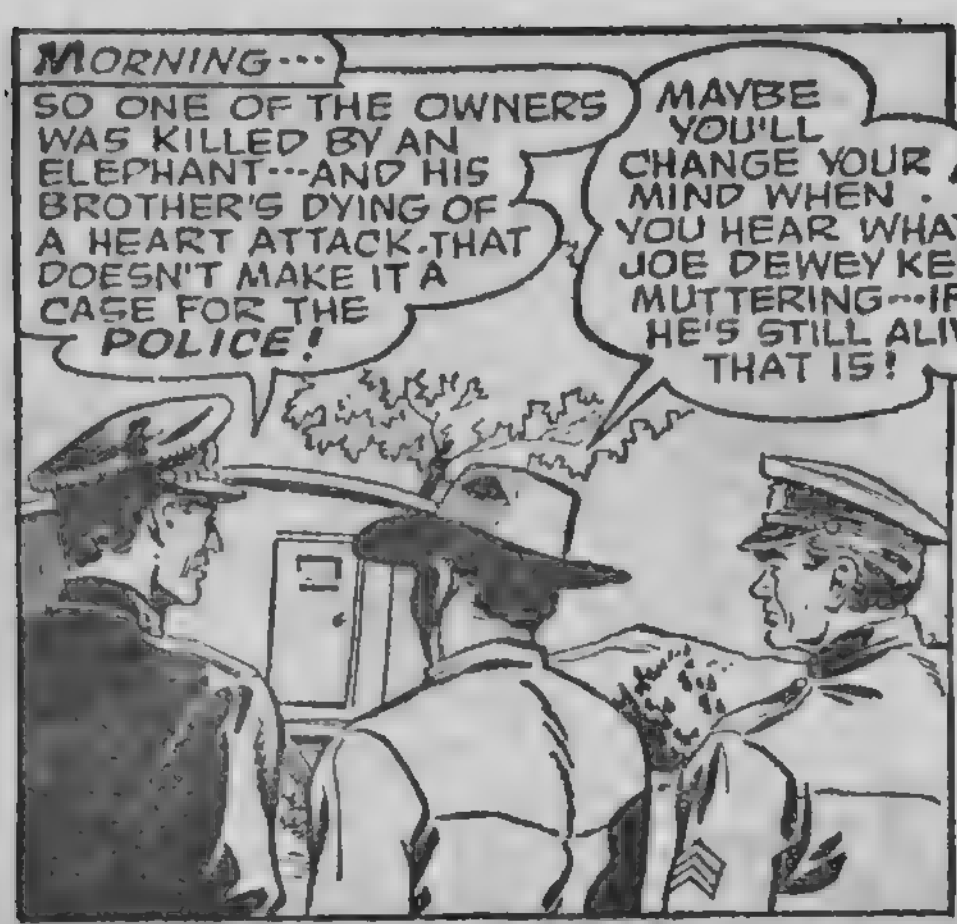
JOE DEWEY'S HEART COULDN'T TAKE THE STRAIN···
K-KEEP AWAY ···YOU'RE D-DEAD ··· ARGH!
WHAT··· WHAT'S HAPPENING···?

YEEE-OWWW! NO···N-NO ···NOT YOU—

HELP! H-HELP!


HE DIDN'T SEE THE AWFUL MENACE TOWARDS WHICH HE WAS RUNNING···
UH··· UH···
EP AWAY. THIS ELEPHANT IS DANGEROUS!

AI-EEEEEE!


MORNING...
SO ONE OF THE OWNERS WAS KILLED BY AN ELEPHANT...AND HIS BROTHER'S DYING OF A HEART ATTACK.THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT A CASE FOR THE POLICE!
MAYBE YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR MIND WHEN YOU HEAR WHAT JOE DEWEY KEEPS MUTTERING...IF HE'S STILL ALIVE, THAT IS!

DOLLS...LITTLE DEVILS THE OLD DOLL MAN MADE ...THEY DID IT...
I NEVER SAW SUCH FRIGHT ON A MAN'S FACE...JUST LOOK AT HIM!

HE'S GONE...
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?
DELIRIUM...BUT I GUESS WE'VE GOT TO CHECK ANYWAY. COME ON...WE'LL GO TO SEE THIS OLD DOLL MAN HE WAS RAVING ABOUT.

GONE! HE'S TAKEN IT ON THE LAM,SO HE MUST HAVE KNOWN SOMETHING ABOUT ALL THIS.
SIGNS OF HASTY FLIGHT ...EVEN UPSET A CAN OF TALCUM ONTO THE FLOOR.

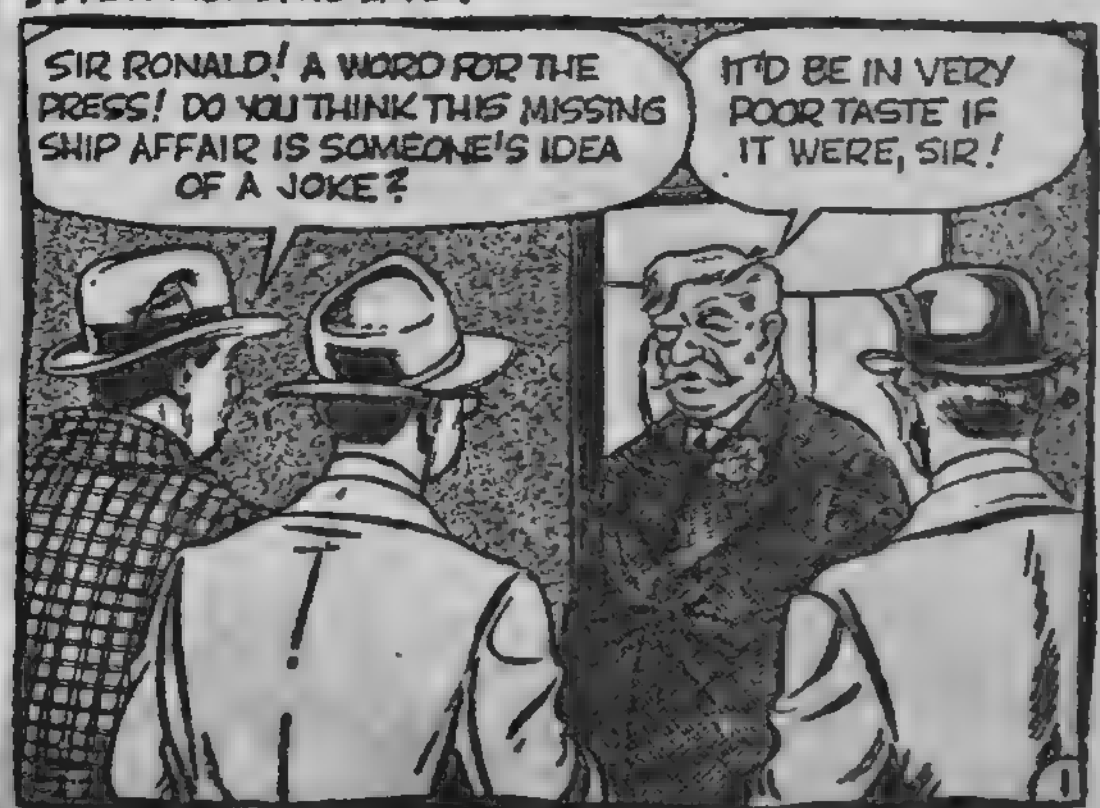
YEAH...THERE'S THE OLD MAN'S FOOTPRINTS, TAKING IT ON THE RUN AS HE ESCAPED...
:GULP!: THE OLD MAN'S FOOTPRINTS... AND SOMETHING ELSE! L-LOOK!

THE...THE FOOTPRINTS OF LITTLE DOLLS... FOLLOWING HIM!
THE END

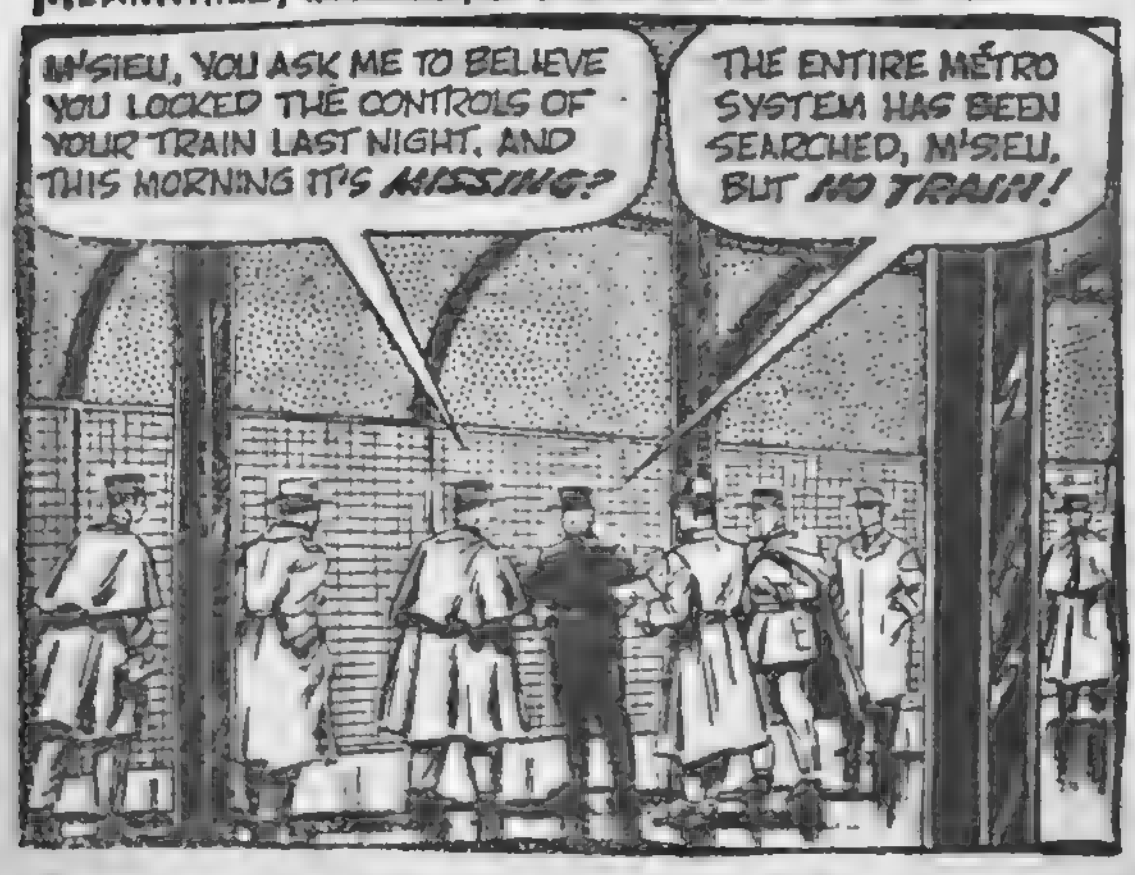
THE ASTONISHED CRY RANG THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AS NATION AFTER NATION AWOKE THAT MORNING TO FIND THAT THE *IMPOSSIBLE* HAD HAPPENED!

ONE OF OUR SHIPS IS MISSING!

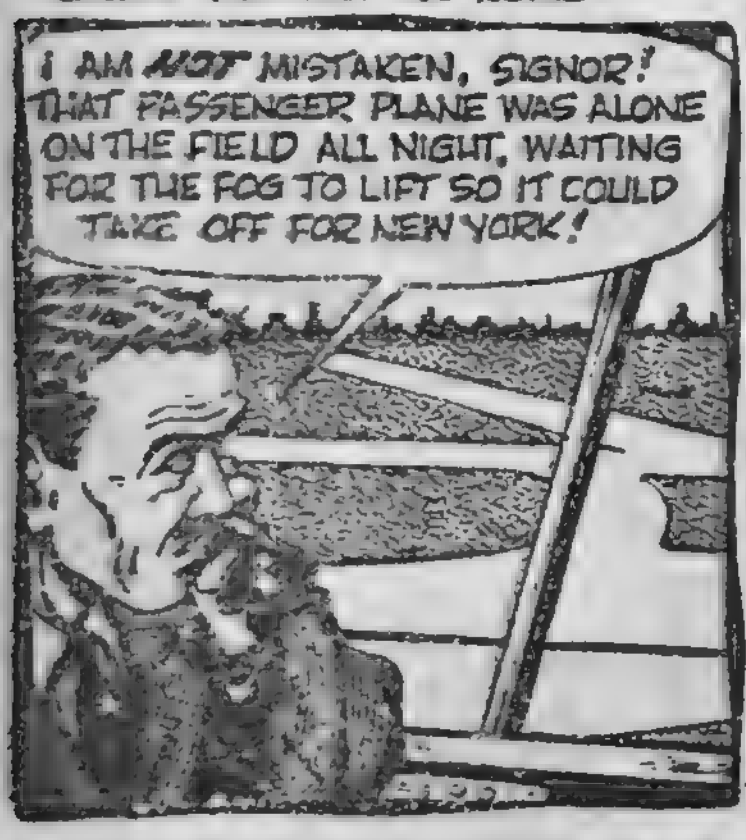
A FEW MOMENTS LATER....

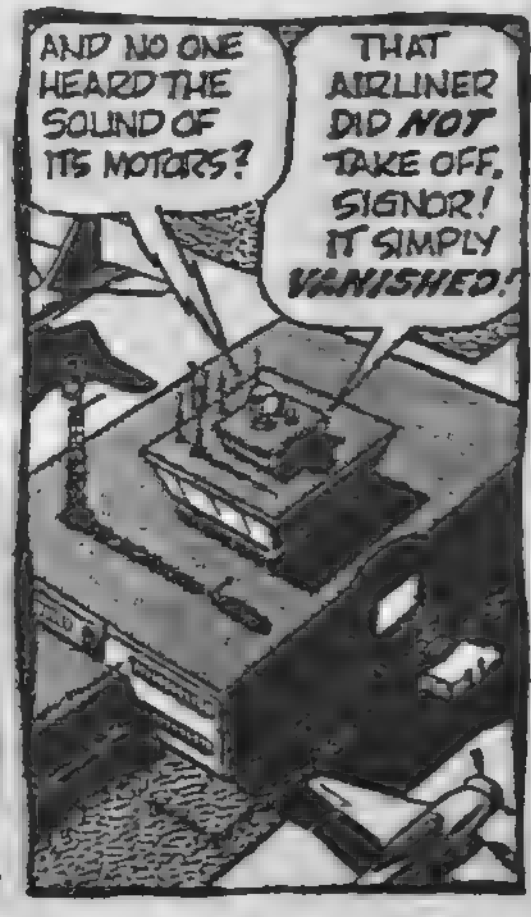


MEANWHILE, IN PARIS, IN A STATION OF THE *MÉTRO* ....



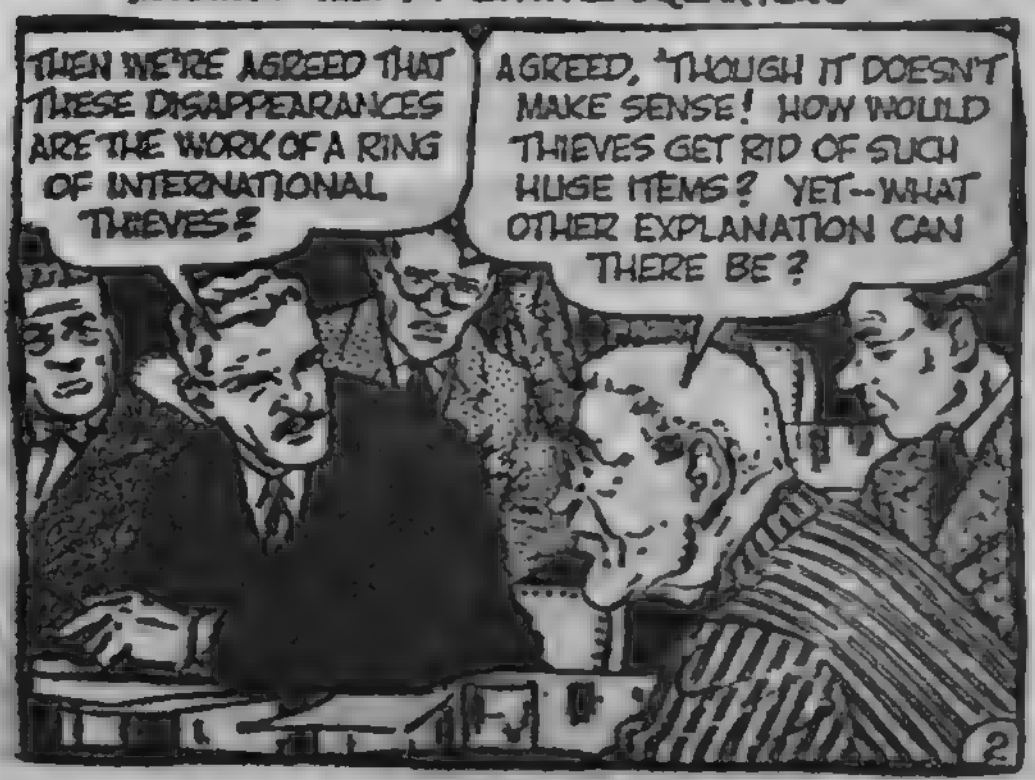
AT THAT SAME MOMENT, AT THE GREAT AIRPORT IN ROME .....





THE BEWILDERING NEWS SOON REACHED POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK....

WHILE THE HUNT WENT ON BY LAND, SEA, AND AIR, AN EMERGENCY COMMITTEE OF THE SEVERAL NATIONS INVOLVED MET AT U.N. HEADQUARTERS....



JIMMY WATSON'S LOSS WAS NOT AS EARTHSHAKING AS THOSE OTHERS, BUT IT WAS JUST AS IMPORTANT TO *HIM*....

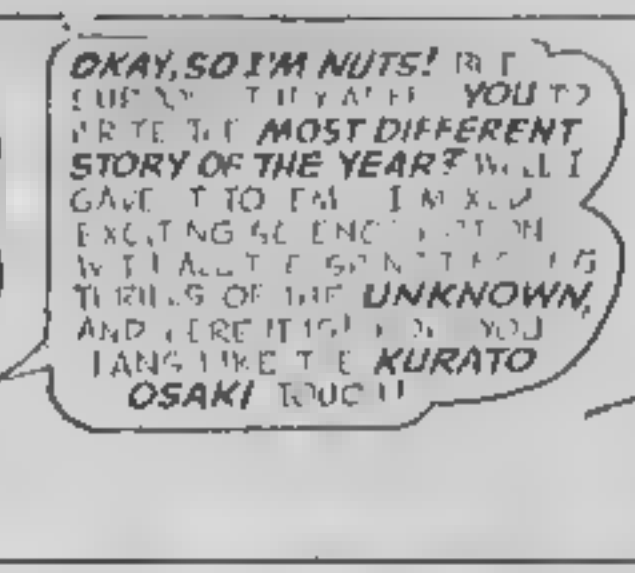
DEEP AS THE MYSTERY WAS, NEXT MORNING IT WAS EVEN DEEPER! *LONDON*....

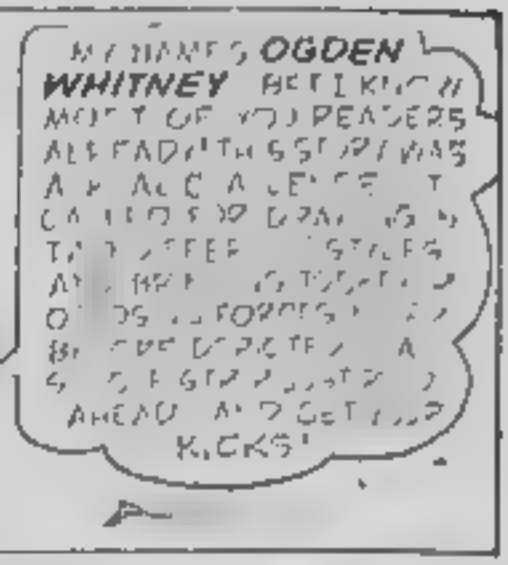
PARIS....

AND AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN *NEW YORK*....

EVERYTHING CAME BACK--EXCEPT JIMMY WATSON'S BIKE!

YES--THE WHOLE WORLD WAS PUZZLED, BUT HAPPY TO HAVE ITS POSSESSIONS BACK--AND HIS HIGHNESS, *THE PRINCE OF MARS*, WAS ECSTATIC WITH DELIGHT!!!

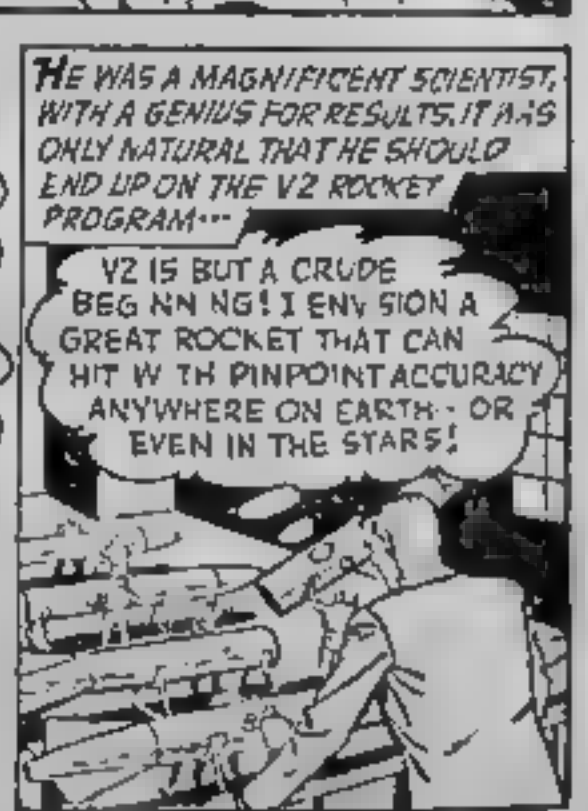

OKAY, SO I'M NUTS! BUT YOU'D AGREE THAT YOU'RE THE MOST DIFFERENT STORY OF THE YEAR? WELL I GAVE IT TO EM! I MIXED EXCITING SCIENCE FICTION WITH ACTUAL SPINTERLING THRILLS OF THE UNKNOWN, AND HERE IT IS! YOU TANG LIKE THE KURATO OSAKI TOUCH!

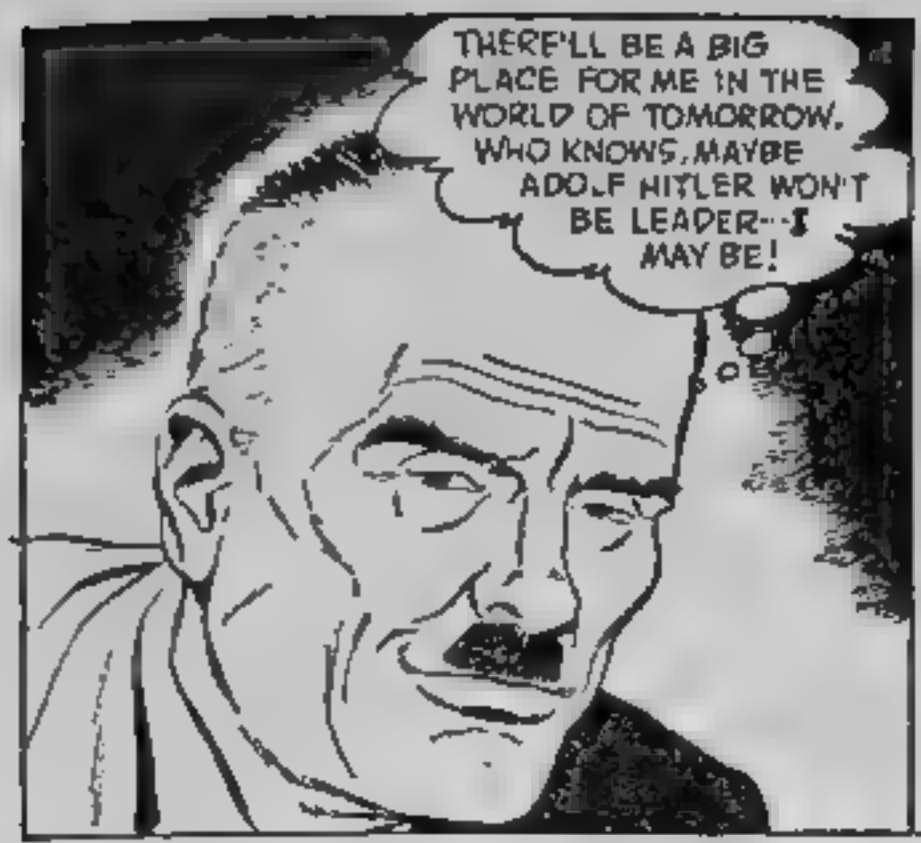

MY NAME IS OGDEN WHITNEY. BET I KNOW MOST OF YOU READERS ALREADY THINK SPIRAL WAS AN ALCOHOLIC CAUSED BY DRINKING TOO MUCH COFFEE. STILL AND THAT I'M TOTALLY OUT OF FORCES. BUT I'VE DECIDED A SUPERGRAPHOLOGIST AHEAD AND GET YOUR KICKS!

SPACEMEN against the SUPERNATURAL!

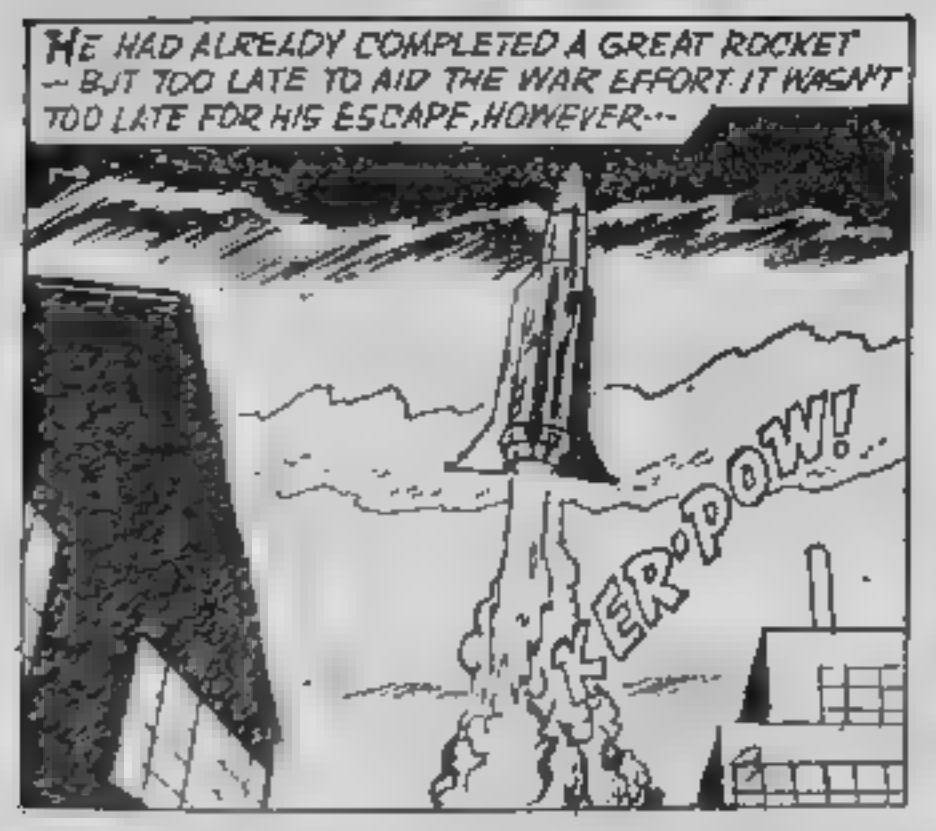
THIS IS A STORY OF TWO SCIENTISTS. THE FIRST WAS DR. FRANZ EHRLICH ...AND AT THE TIME THIS TALE BEGINS, HE WAS A RISING STAR IN THE NAZIS' WAR EFFORT...
WHAT I HAVE DEVELOPED HERE IS A MECHANIZED VARIATION OF THE RACK OF THE MIDDLE AGES! YOU WILL FIND IT USEFUL PUNISHMENT ... FOR EXTRACTING INFORMATION AND CONFESSIONS...
THE GESTAPO CAN USE IT TO ADVANTAGE. YOU'VE GOT A FUTURE AMONG THE MASTER RACE, DR. EHRLICH!

YES--HE HAD A FUTURE! IT WAS HE WHO PERFECTED THE GAS OVENS...
THESE OVENS WILL BE FAST--AND FOOLPROOF! THEY WILL BE ABLE TO LIQUIDATE ENEMIES OF THE REICH BY THE MILLIONS --AND AT SMALL COST!
EXCELLENT! OUR COMPLIMENTS, HERR DOKTOR!


HE WAS A MAGNIFICENT SCIENTIST, WITH A GENIUS FOR RESULTS. IT WAS ONLY NATURAL THAT HE SHOULD END UP ON THE V2 ROCKET PROGRAM...
V2 IS BUT A CRUDE BEGINNING! I ENVISION A GREAT ROCKET THAT CAN HIT WITH PINPOINT ACCURACY ANYWHERE ON EARTH -- OR EVEN IN THE STARS!


THERE'LL BE A BIG PLACE FOR ME IN THE WORLD OF TOMORROW. WHO KNOWS, MAYBE ADOLF HITLER WON'T BE LEADER--I MAY BE!

YES, HIS AMBITION WAS A PERSONAL ONE FOR HE CRAVED POWER AND LEADERSHIP WITH EVERY IOTA OF HIS SCHEMING BEING! BUT NOW THE WAR TURNED AGAINST NAZI GERMANY FROM EVERY QUARTER, DESTRUCTION MOVED IN.


HE HAD ALREADY COMPLETED A GREAT ROCKET -- BUT TOO LATE TO AID THE WAR EFFORT. IT WASN'T TOO LATE FOR HIS ESCAPE, HOWEVER--
KER-POW!

IT'S HEADING STRAIGHT FOR ANDROS IV! ALL MY INFORMATION INDICATES THAT IT'S CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING LIFE--AND IF IT'S INTELLIGENT LIFE, IT WILL FIT IN WITH MY PLANS PERFECTLY!

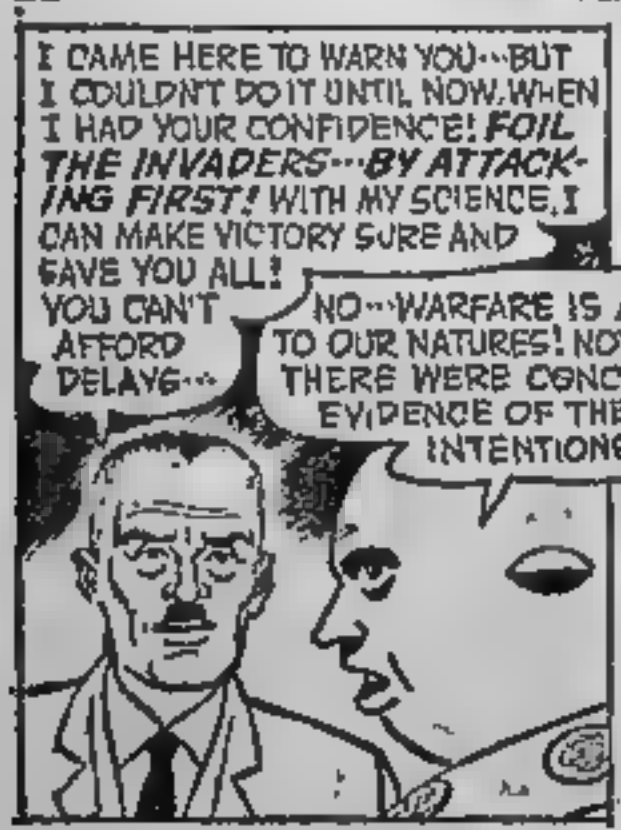
I'M IN LUCK! A CIVILIZATION LIKE THAT MEANS THEY ARE INTELLIGENT! AND THEY SEEM FRIENDLY ENOUGH TO FIT IN WITH MY FUTURE PLANS-- IF I PLAY MY CARDS RIGHT!

HE PLAYED HIS CARDS RIGHT--- KNOWING THAT HE HAD TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF IN THEIR TRUST BEFORE HE COULD WIN THEM OVER! HE BECAME THEIR CHIEF SCIENTIST.

--AND HE PERFECTED MANY GREAT DEVICES TO HELP THEIR COMFORT AND CIVILIZATION.
YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE MUCH FOR US---AND THIS NEW SOURCE OF POWER WILL BE OF FURTHER HELP. YOU HAVE ALL OUR THANKS---AND HAVE WON OUR TRUST AND LOVE!

TRUST AND LOVE···NOW WAS THE MOMENT FOR HIM! HE CHANGED THE DIRECTION OF HIS WORK AND COMMENCED TURNING OUT NEW AND DEADLY WEAPONS OF DESTRUCTION···
GOOD···IT WORKS PERFECTLY!
BAROOM!

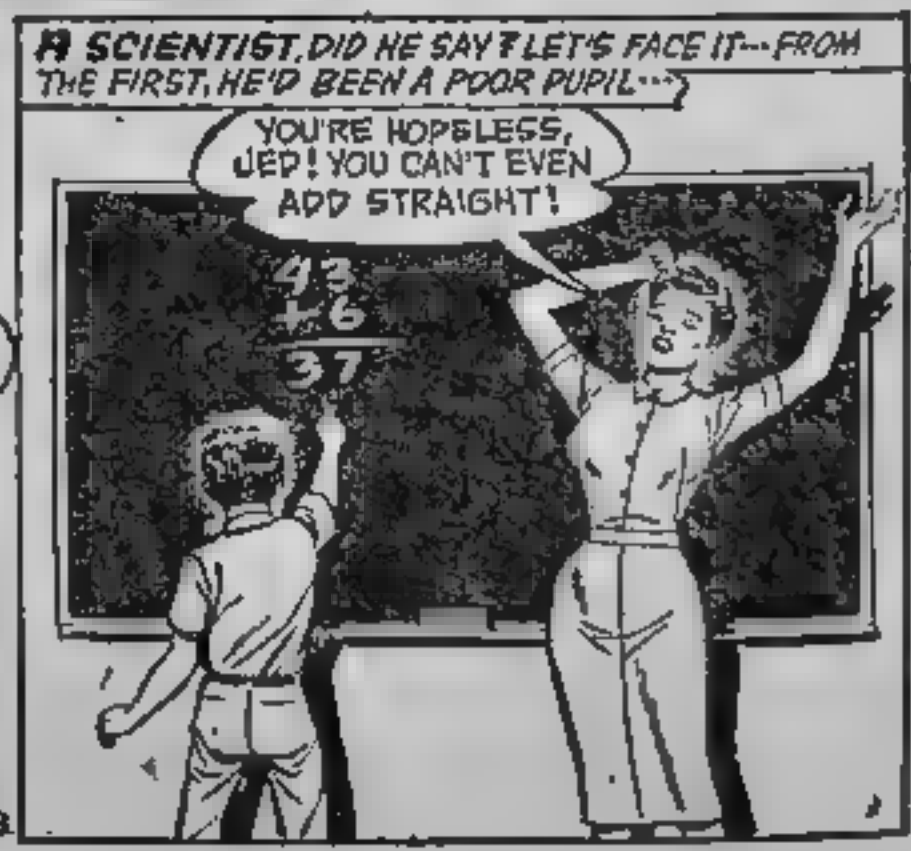
BUT WHY THESE MIGHTY WEAPONS? WE ARE A PEACE-LOVING RACE, WITH NO ENEMIES···
YOU'RE WRONG! I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME UNTIL YOU FOUND ME TO BE A TRUE FRIEND, BUT NOW HEAR THE TRUTH! FOR LONG, EARTH HAS PLANNED AN INVASION OF ANDROS IV, FOR EXPANSION FOR ITS MASSES! I FLED BECAUSE I AM A MAN OF PEACE, AND COULDN'T STAND THEIR INTENTION OF KILLING YOU OFF WITHOUT MERCY!


I CAME HERE TO WARN YOU···BUT I COULDN'T DO IT UNTIL NOW, WHEN I HAD YOUR CONFIDENCE! FOIL THE INVADERS···BY ATTACKING FIRST! WITH MY SCIENCE, I CAN MAKE VICTORY SURE AND SAVE YOU ALL!
YOU CAN'T AFFORD DELAY···
NO···WARFARE IS ALIEN TO OUR NATURES! NOT UNLESS THERE WERE CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF THEIR INTENTIONS!

The "EVIDENCE" CAME, COMPLETELY BY ACCIDENT. IT WAS GRIM FATE THAT MADE AN UNMANNED ROCKET FROM EARTH, IN ONE OF THE FIRST DEEP SPACE PROBES, CRASH ON ANDROS IV! THE ATOMIC POWER CAUSED A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION···
CRASH!

I'VE ALREADY STUDIED WHAT REMAINS OF THE EARTH MISSILE'S CONTROLS. IT WAS DELIBERATELY AIMED AT THIS PLANET AND CARRIED A GIANT ATOMIC WARHEAD. THEY'VE OPENED UP THEIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST US!
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR US BUT TO PLACE OURSELVES UNDER YOUR DIRECTION! WE WILL TAKE WHATEVER STEPS YOU ADVISE IN A DEFENSIVE WAR AGAINST EARTH!

A DEADLY WAR OUT OF SPACE···A WAR THAT NOBODY ON EARTH EVEN DREAMED OF! AND NOW, HAVING MET THE VILLAIN, LET'S GO DOWN TO PLANET EARTH AND MEET THE HERO OF THIS STORY! HIS NAME'S JED WILLIAMS···
GOSH···I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A SCIENTIST···AND HOW DO I WIND UP? A CAR POLISHER!


A SCIENTIST, DID HE SAY? LET'S FACE IT···FROM THE FIRST, HE'D BEEN A POOR PUPIL···
YOU'RE HOPELESS, JED! YOU CAN'T EVEN ADD STRAIGHT!
43
46
37

AND LATER, IN GENERAL SCIENCE CLASS...

THERE HE GOES AGAIN!

BOOM!

HIS TEACHER, PROFESSOR MORRISON, KNEW HIM AS THE WORST SCIENCE STUDENT HE'D EVER SEEN...

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, PROFESSOR MORRISON?

THAT'S RIGHT. EFFECTIVE AS OF NOW, YOU'RE BARRED FROM ANY AND EVERY SCIENCE COURSE IN THIS SCHOOL. YOU JUST DON'T HAVE THE MENTALITY FOR IT, I'M AFRAID!

HE NEVER DID FINISH HIS EDUCATION... AND HE COULDN'T GET GOOD JOBS! BUT HE NEVER LOST HIS HOPE AND AMBITION...

THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT. THE FLEGENHEIMER 8 COULD STAND A NEW MOTOR ...SHE'S THE SLOWEST CAR BUILT!

WHY SHOULDN'T I BUILD A NEW MOTOR? IT'S JUST A MATTER OF SCIENCE...AND I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A SCIENTIST!

CASH PRIZES!

TO EMPLOYEES WITH IDEAS FOR IMPROVING THE FLEGENHEIMER 8!

I'M STILL SURE I COULD BE ONE, NO MATTER WHAT EVERYONE ELSE HAS ALWAYS SAID. I'LL PROVE IT BY INVENTING A NEW MOTOR!

HE WASN'T ABLE TO GET AT IT RIGHT AWAY. HE HAD TO RETURN TO HIS OLD HOME TOWN TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF HIS UNCLE, WHO'D BROUGHT HIM UP FROM INFANCY...

THIS IS FOR YOU, JED... A LETTER YOUR UNCLE WROTE TO YOU ON HIS DEATHBED.

THANKS...

...and I know you'll be surprised to learn I wasn't really your uncle. You were left on my doorstep as an infant... I never knew who your parents were. I saved a strange amulet you wore around your neck when I found you, and I think you ought to have it now...

WELL, I'LL BE! IT'S A FUNNY FEELING, NOT HAVING ANY REAL RELATIVES YOU KNOW ABOUT...

KIND OF ODD... MAYBE I COULD WEAR IT ON A CHAIN AROUND MY WRIST!

AND SO, WEARING THE AMULET, HE RETURNED TO WORK ON HIS NEW "MOTOR". DID WE SAY HE WAS NO SCIENTIST? THAT WAS AN UNDERSTATEMENT...

I... I'VE GOTTA ADMIT IT LOOKS KIND OF FUNNY. MAYBE I SHOULD NEVER HAVE TACKLED A JOB LIKE THIS...

THERE WAS NO GASOLINE AROUND, SO HE PUT IN MAPLE SYRUP, AND... WONDER OF WONDERS...

HALLELUJAH! IT WORKS!

THE PRESIDENT OF FLEGENHEIMER MOTORS WAS ALL FOR THROWING JED OUT WHEN HE SAW THE CONTRAPTION ... BUT STRANGELY, INSTEAD...

...AND I THOUGHT IF YOU'D GIVE IT A TRYOUT...

GET OUT... I MEAN, I'LL HAVE IT INSTALLED IN A TEST CAR IMMEDIATELY!

WHAT AM I SAYING?

AND WHEN THEY TRIED IT OUT...

246 MILES PER HOUR! WOW!

AHEM! SEE WHAT SCIENCE CAN DO?

THEY WANTED JED TO STAY AT A HANDSOME SALARY... BUT WHEN REPORTS ABOUT HIS NEW MOTOR LEAKED OUT, HE WAS SWAMPED WITH OFFERS! THE FIRST HE ACCEPTED WAS WITH A LAWNMOWER COMPANY...

OUR PRODUCT JUST WON'T SELL... AND IF YOU COULD COME UP WITH SOME SCIENTIFIC INNOVATIONS THAT WOULD MAKE IT MORE EFFICIENT...

I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO, SIR!

SO... HE BUILT A NEW LAWNMOWER...

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT? I CHOSE THIS FIELD PURPOSELY, SO I COULD GIVE IT A REALLY GOOD TRYOUT!

AWK!

WHAT THE...!

BUT THEN HE SHOWED THEM WHAT THE LAWNMOWER COULD DO! JUST ONCE AROUND THE FIELD... AND...

ER... WORKS RATHER WELL, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

NEXT HE WAS CALLED IN BY A HAIR TONIC COMPANY..

WE'VE SPENT A LOT ON THIS PRODUCT OF OURS, BUT LET'S FACE IT···IT DOESN'T PRODUCE *RESULTS!* NOW, WE THOUGHT THAT A MAN WITH SUCH A RECORD OF SCIENTIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENT AS YOURSELF···

SAY NO MORE ···I'LL ATTEND TO IT IMMEDIATELY!

Miracle HAIR TONIC

HMMM.. LET'S SEE NOW! I'VE TRIED CASTOR OIL AND CHOCOLATE SODA···WOULD KETCHUP MAKE A GOOD REAGENT? THEN I'LL TRIPLE-BLOOP THE AFGHANISTAN..

FINALLY, JED CAME UP WITH A BRAND NEW HAIR TONIC--AND WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR A DEMONSTRATION..

BUT···BUT WHY HAVE YOU SELECTED A MAN LIKE THIS?

WHY NOT? HE SURE IS **BALD**, ISN'T HE?

NOW, YOU WILL FIND THAT THE NEW PRODUCT IS MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN USED IN A SPRAYGUN···LIKE THIS···

WHOOSH!

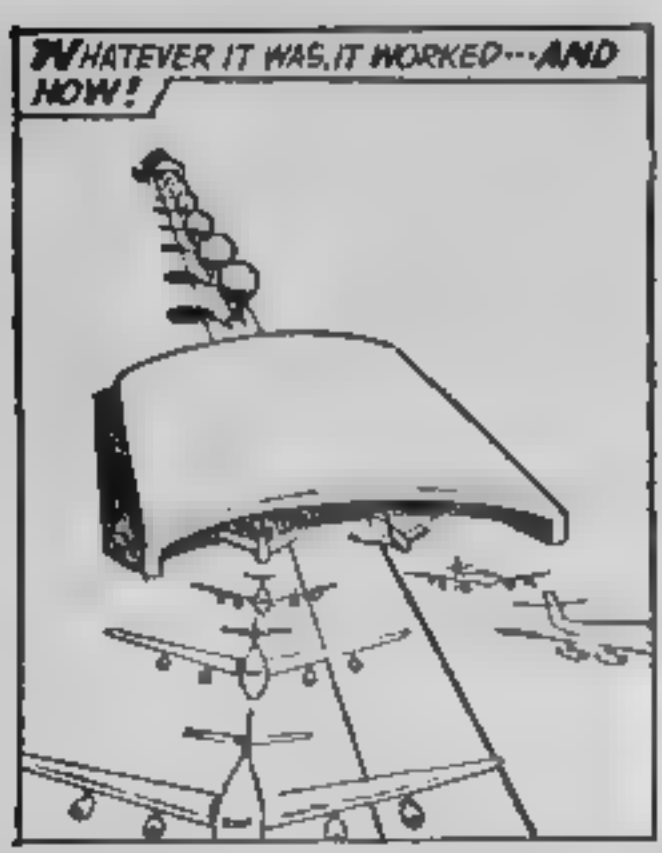
BEHOLD··· THE WONDERS OF SCIENCE!

NEXT ··A BALLOON COMPANY

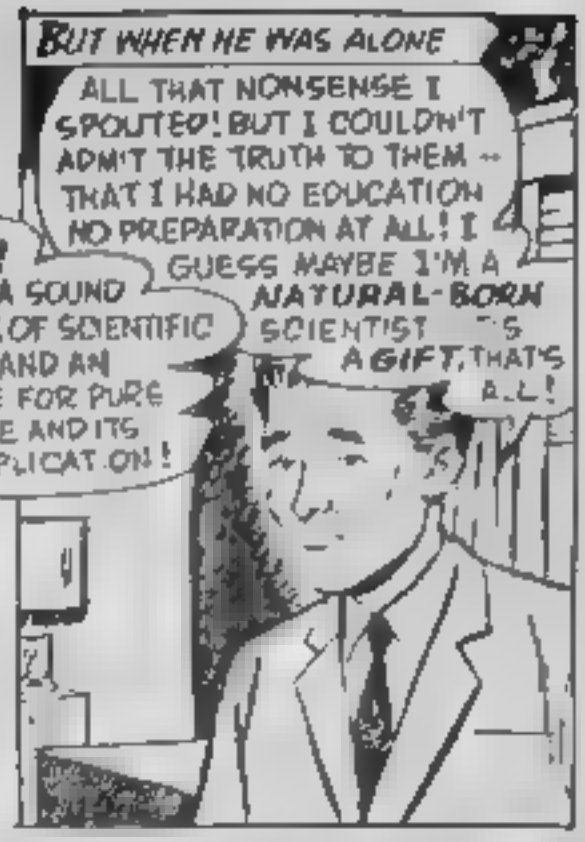
WE'VE GOTTEN A BIT BEHIND THE TIMES···THAT MAY BE WHY WE HAVEN'T SOLD A SINGLE BALLOON SINCE 1916! BUT IF YOU COULD DESIGN A FEW MECHANICAL IMPROVEMENTS..

IT'S AS GOOD AS DONE!

A SQUIRREL IN A SQUIRREL CAGE IS OLD HAT. I'M INSTALLING A *RABBIT*--THAT'S *REAL SCIENCE!* WITH ONE OF THESE IN EVERY BALLOON···AND A LITTLE FRAMMIS ON THE DILLERWORT···

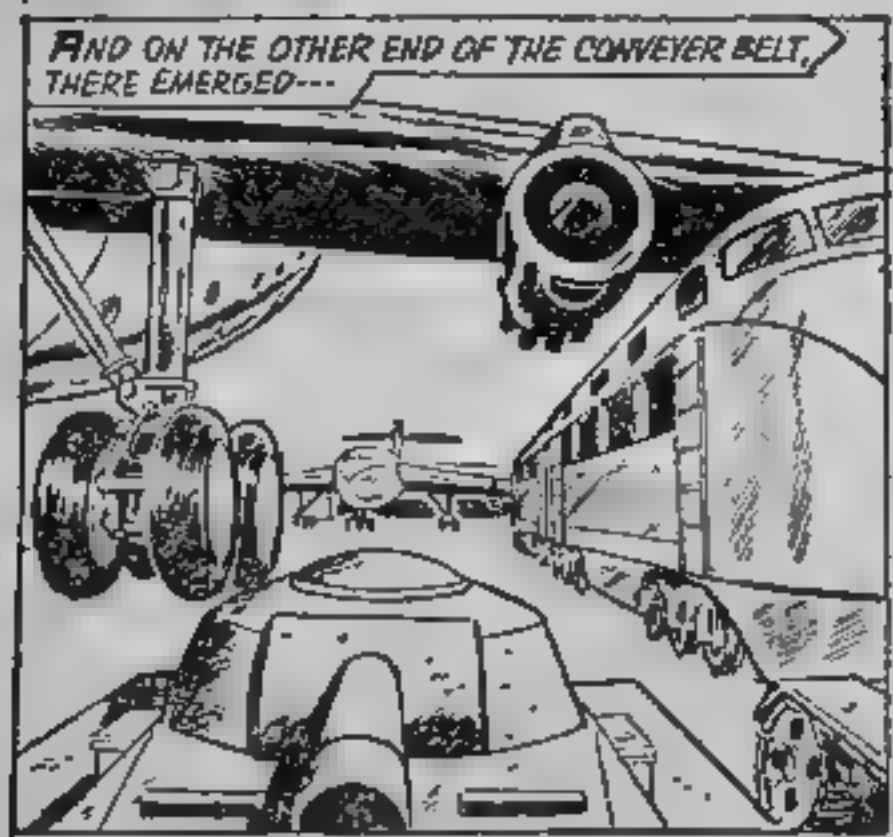

WHATEVER IT WAS, IT WORKED---AND HOW!

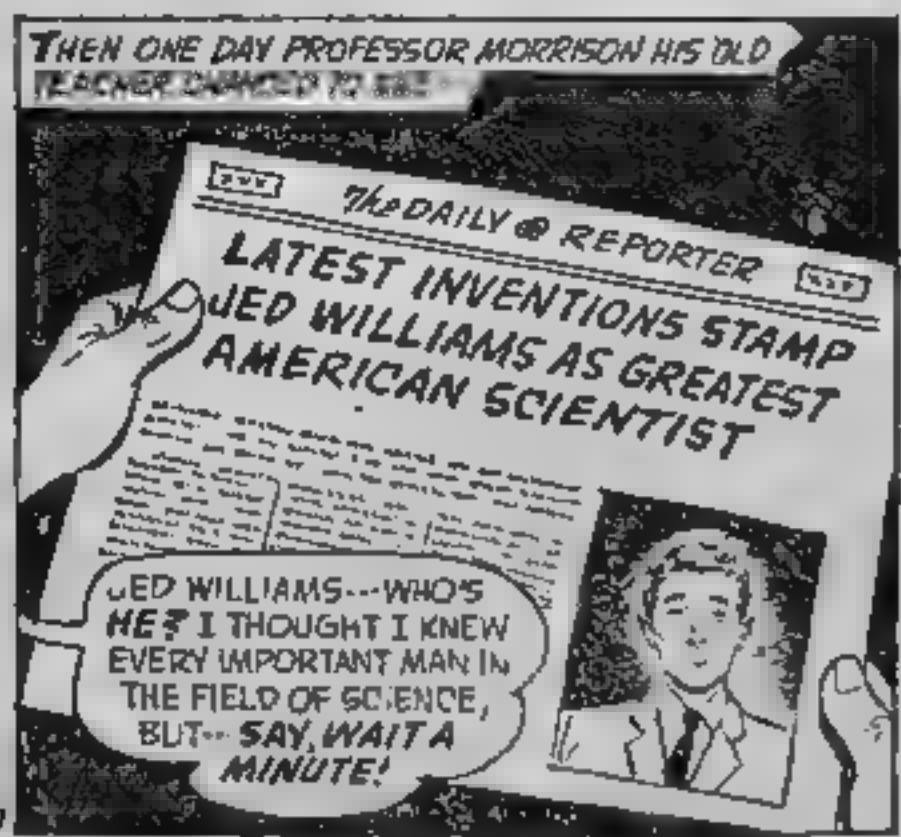
HOLD STILL FOR A PICTURE DR. WILLIAMS!
WHAT'S THE SECRET OF YOUR SUCCESS, DR WILLIAMS AND YOUR GREAT SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE?
AHEM! JUST CALL TA SOUND GROUNDWORK OF SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION—AND AN APTITUDE FOR PURE SCIENCE AND ITS APPLICATION!


BUT WHEN HE WAS ALONE
ALL THAT NONSENSE I SPOUTED! BUT I COULDN'T ADMIT THE TRUTH TO THEM -- THAT I HAD NO EDUCATION NO PREPARATION AT ALL! I GUESS MAYBE I'M A NATURAL-BORN SCIENTIST ... A GIFT, THAT'S ALL!

FINALLY---THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF APPROACHED HIM---
OUR SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM NEEDS A MAN LIKE YOU, DR. WILLIAMS. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
IT'S MY PATRIOTIC DUTY, GENTLEMEN. I ACCEPT!

HE WAS GIVEN HIS OWN LABORATORY, SO HE COULD WORK IN SECRET. AND THERE HE PERFECTED HIS "INVENTIONS"---ONE AFTER ANOTHER---

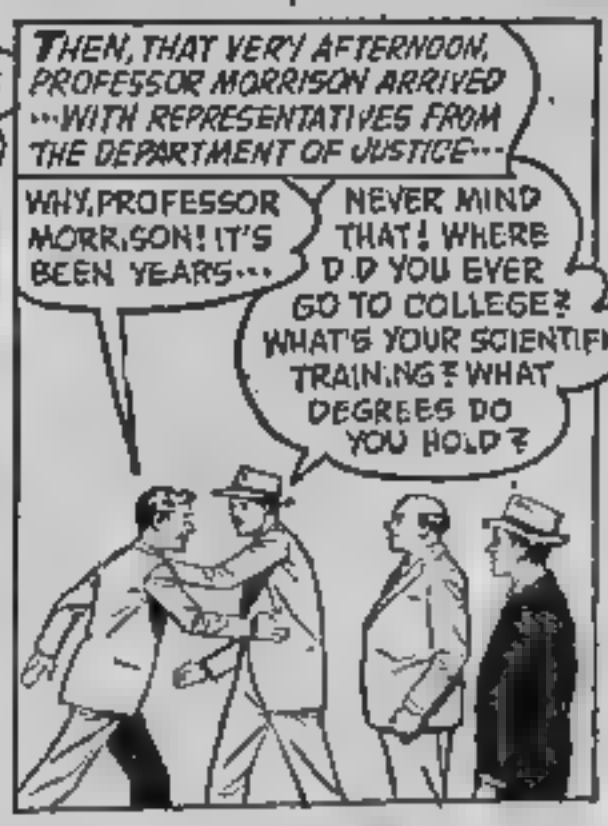

AND ON THE OTHER END OF THE CONVEYER BELT, THERE EMERGED---

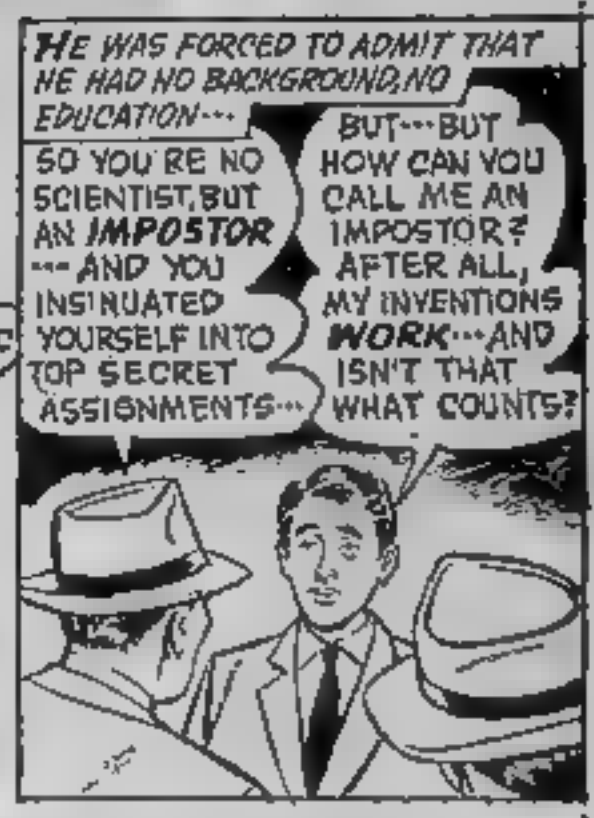

THEN ONE DAY PROFESSOR MORRISON HIS OLD
The DAILY REPORTER
LATEST INVENTIONS STAMP JED WILLIAMS AS GREATEST AMERICAN SCIENTIST
JED WILLIAMS---WHO'S HE? I THOUGHT I KNEW EVERY IMPORTANT MAN IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE, BUT--- SAY, WAIT A MINUTE!

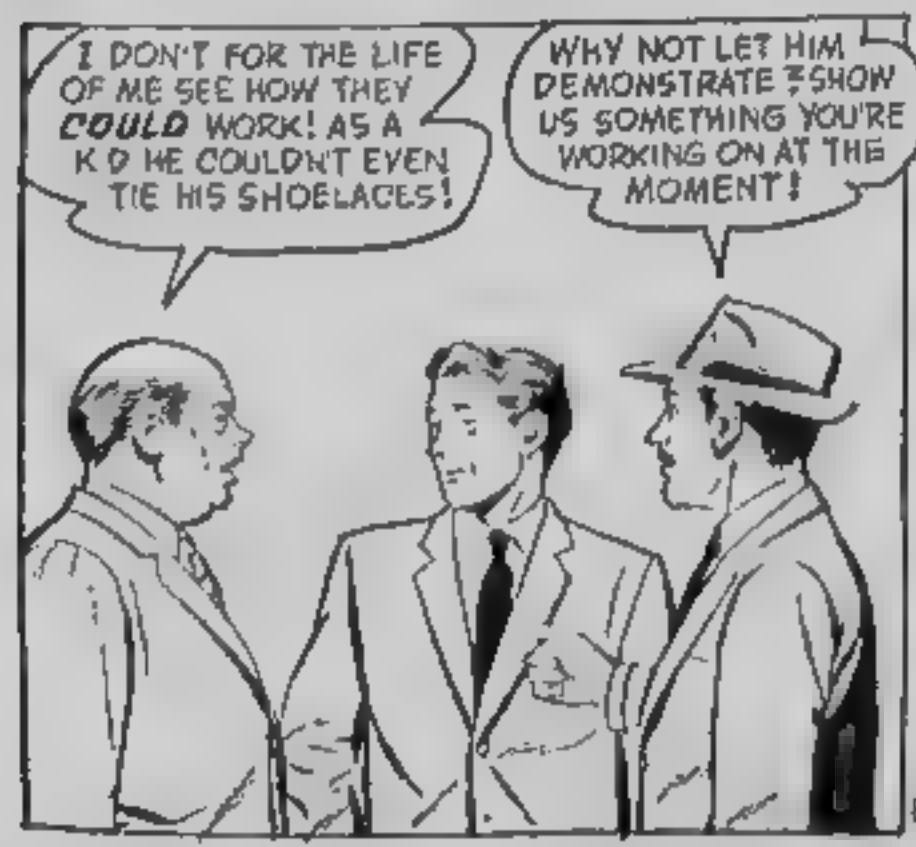
I THOUGHT THAT PICTURE LOOKED FAMILIAR··· WHY, HE WAS AN IGNORAMUS, THE WORST SCIENCE STUDENT I EVER HAD! SOMETHING VERY FISHY'S GOING ON HERE ···HE'S FOOLING THE GOVERNMENT, MAYBE HE'S EVEN A SPY! IT'S MY DUTY AS A CITIZEN TO EXPOSE HIM!

BUT POOR JED DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS IN THE OFFING. LIFE JUST THEN SEEMED A WONDERFUL THING···
AS YOUR COLLEAGUES HERE, WE WANTED TO HONOR YOU, DR. WILLIAMS! WE'VE NOTICED THAT YOU JUST WEAR AN OLD ORNAMENT AROUND YOUR WRIST···HARDLY FITTING TO A MAN OF YOUR STANDING! SO WE CLUBBED TOGETHER AND GOT YOU THIS WRIST-WATCH···
WHY, THANKS! I'LL PUT IT ON RIGHT AWAY!

GUESS I WON'T BE NEEDING THIS ANYMORE! THINK YOU CAN USE IT, SULLIVAN?
THANKS! I CAN ALWAYS GIVE IT TO SOMEBODY!


THEN, THAT VERY AFTERNOON, PROFESSOR MORRISON ARRIVED ···WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE···
WHY, PROFESSOR MORRISON! IT'S BEEN YEARS···
NEVER MIND THAT! WHERE DID YOU EVER GO TO COLLEGE? WHAT'S YOUR SCIENTIFIC TRAINING? WHAT DEGREES DO YOU HOLD?

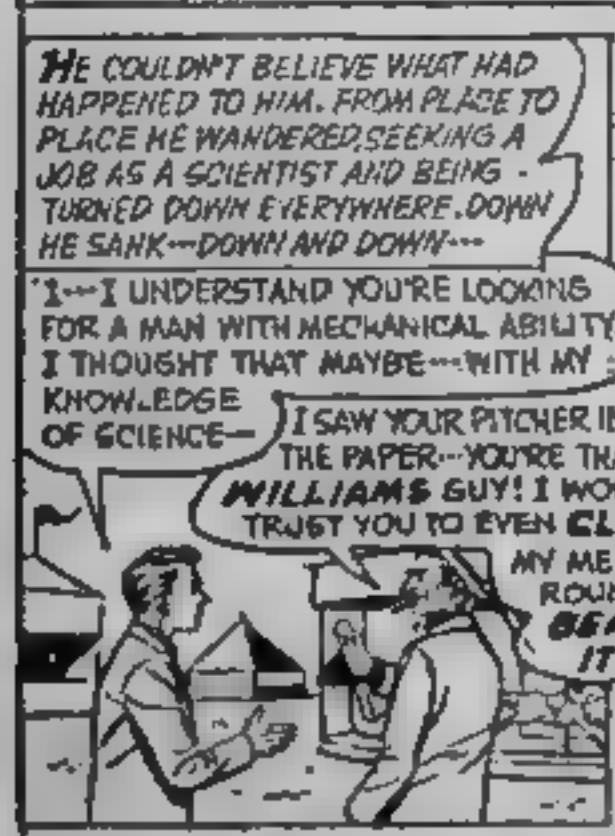

HE WAS FORCED TO ADMIT THAT HE HAD NO BACKGROUND, NO EDUCATION···
SO YOU'RE NO SCIENTIST, BUT AN IMPOSTOR ···AND YOU INSINUATED YOURSELF INTO TOP SECRET ASSIGNMENTS···
BUT···BUT HOW CAN YOU CALL ME AN IMPOSTOR? AFTER ALL, MY INVENTIONS WORK···AND ISN'T THAT WHAT COUNTS?


I DON'T FOR THE LIFE OF ME SEE HOW THEY COULD WORK! AS A KID HE COULDN'T EVEN TIE HIS SHOELACES!
WHY NOT LET HIM DEMONSTRATE? SHOW US SOMETHING YOU'RE WORKING ON AT THE MOMENT!

WELL, THERE'S THIS! IT IT'S A SORT OF CANNON DEVICE, TO SEED THE CLOUDS WITH A CHEMICAL BARRAGE AND THUS CONTROL RAINFALL OVER THE WHOLE CONTINENT···
THAT THING? HAW-HAW ···SOME INVENTION! LET'S SEE HOW IT WORKS!

I'VE NEVER FAILED BEFORE! I—I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!
PLOOP!

The DAILY REPORTER
FAMOUS SCIENTIST REVEALED AS FAKE
JOURNAL-NEWS
UED WILLIAMS DISMISSED IN DISGRACE
EVENING STANDARD
WILLIAMS A FRAUD


HE COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM. FROM PLACE TO PLACE HE WANDERED, SEEKING A JOB AS A SCIENTIST AND BEING TURNED DOWN EVERYWHERE. DOWN HE SANK—DOWN AND DOWN—
I—I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A MAN WITH MECHANICAL ABILITY. I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE—WITH MY KNOWLEDGE OF SCIENCE—
I SAW YOUR PITCHER IN THE PAPER—YOU'RE THAT WILLIAMS GUY! I WOULDN'T TRUST YOU TO EVEN CLEAN MY MERRY-GO-ROUND! BEAT IT!

I JUST CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT! IT COULDN'T ALL HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT. I HAD A GREAT GIFT—
BUT WHERE DID IT GO?

AND THEN, AT THAT MOMENT, SOMETHING VERY STRANGE HAPPENED! FROM OUT OF SPACE CAME A HUGE OBJECT—SEEMING TO SHRIEK AS IT FELL—
YEEEE-OWWWW
WHAT—WHAT'S THAT?

POUF!
WHAM!

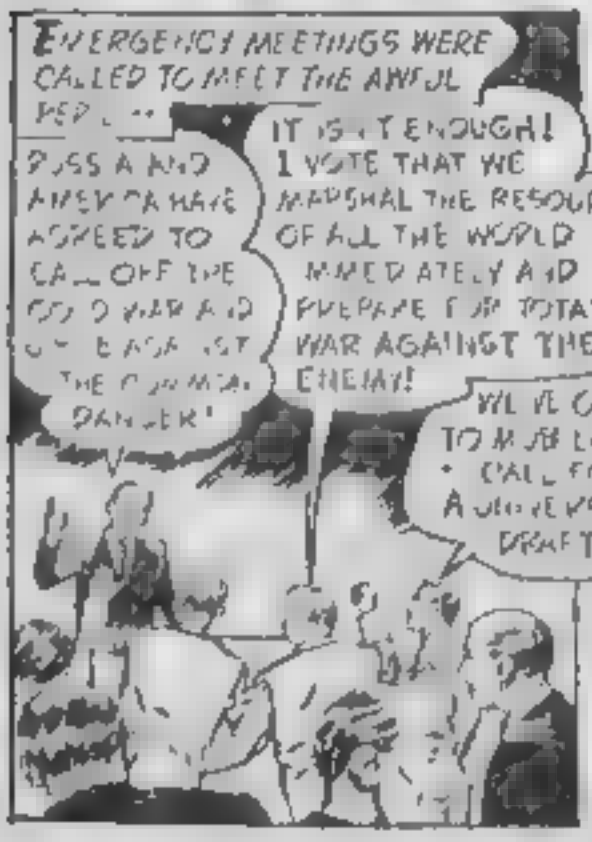
ON EVERY CONTINENT THE STRANGE PROJECTILES FELL—EMITTING A GAS THAT PARALYZED! AND FROM THE SKIES, A CRUEL VOICE BLASTED FORTH—
ALL RESIDENTS OF PLANET EARTH—TAKE HEED! A VAST AND MIGHTY SPACE ARMADA IS EVEN NOW SPEEDING TOWARDS YOU—OBJECT, INVASION!

THERE IS NO DEFENSE AGAINST US! EACH DAY, AS WE DRAW NEARER, WE WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER DISPLAY OF OUR MIGHTY POWER...

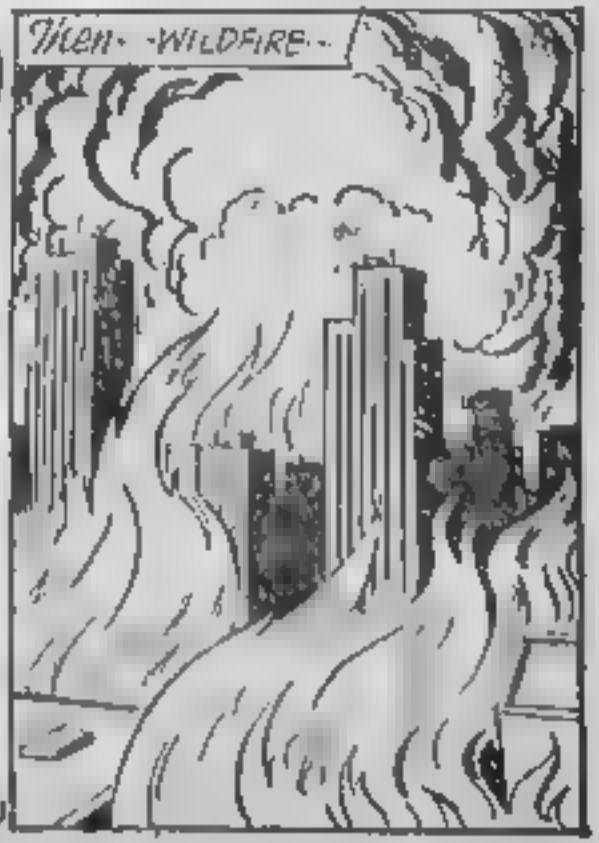
...SO THAT YOU MAY UNDERSTAND HOW HOPELESS RESISTANCE WILL BE! YOU HAVE A WEEK UNTIL WE LAND... A WEEK DURING WHICH YOU CAN OBSERVE OUR STRENGTH...

...AND SEE THE WISDOM OF SURRENDER! OTHERWISE... EXTINCTION!

APPARENTLY THESE WERE NO IDLE THREATS, FOR THE VERY NEXT DAY CAME AN EXPLOSIVE BLAST...ITS MIGHT PUTTING THE ATOMIC BOMB TO SHAME...
BA-ROOOM!

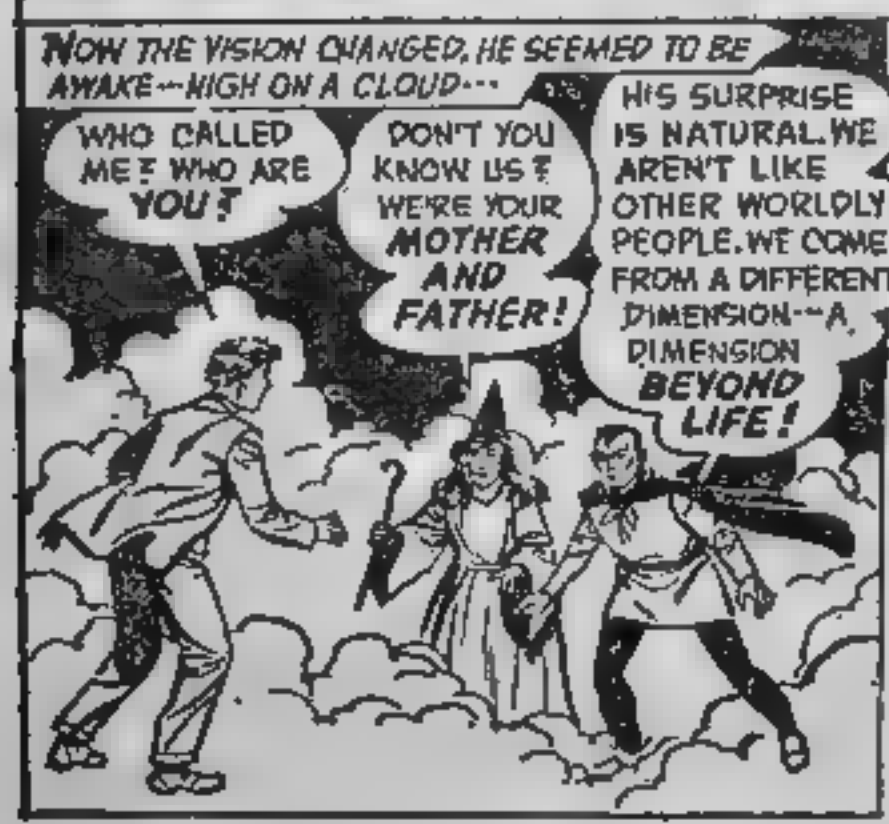

EMERGENCY MEETINGS WERE CALLED TO MEET THE AWFUL PERIL...
IT ISN'T ENOUGH! I VOTE THAT WE MARSHAL THE RESOURCES OF ALL THE WORLD IMMEDIATELY AND PREPARE FOR TOTAL WAR AGAINST THE ENEMY!
WE'LL GET TO MOBILIZE - CALL FOR A UNIVERSAL DRAFT

BUT OF WHAT BENEFIT WERE SUCH STEPS - IN THE FACE OF DISASTER? SOON CAME A TERRIFIC TIDAL WAVE, TRIGGERED FROM OUTER SPACE AND WREAKING AWFUL DESTRUCTION...

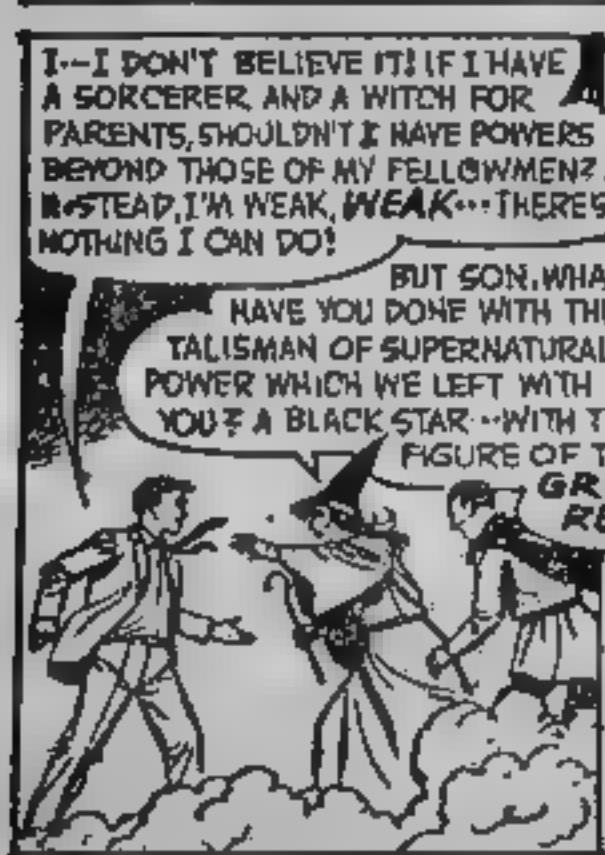

Then - WILDFIRE...

ONCE I THOUGHT I WAS A SCIENTIST, WORKING FOR MY COUNTRY'S DEFENSE. I WAS JUST A FOOL, I GUESS--BUT OH, IF I COULD ONLY HELP NOW!

HE FELL INTO A TROUBLED GRIEVING SLEEP, AND A STRANGE VISION APPEARED TO HIM ...A VISION OF PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T SEEM QUITE HUMAN...
SON...SON! CAN'T YOU HEAR US CALLING YOU?


NOW THE VISION CHANGED. HE SEEMED TO BE AWAKE--HIGH ON A CLOUD...
WHO CALLED ME? WHO ARE YOU?
DON'T YOU KNOW US? WE'RE YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER!
HIS SURPRISE IS NATURAL. WE AREN'T LIKE OTHER WORLDLY PEOPLE. WE COME FROM A DIFFERENT DIMENSION--A DIMENSION BEYOND LIFE!

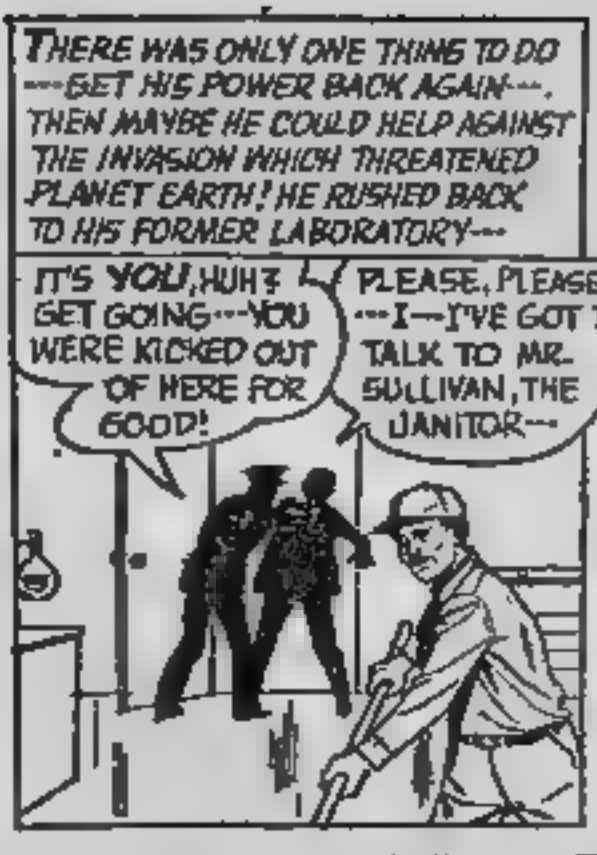
YOU DON'T MEAN--THE SUPERNATURAL?
AH BUT WE DO. MORTALS HAVE NAMES FOR US--THEY WOULD CALL US A SORCERER AND A WITCH! MANY YEARS AGO, WE WERE WITHIN YOUR WORLD AND PURSUED BY ENEMIES--AND FOR YOUR SAFETY, WE LEFT YOU, AS A BABY, ON THE DOORSTEP OF A HUMAN!


I--I DON'T BELIEVE IT! IF I HAVE A SORCERER AND A WITCH FOR PARENTS, SHOULDN'T I HAVE POWERS BEYOND THOSE OF MY FELLOWMEN? INSTEAD, I'M WEAK, WEAK...THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO!
BUT SON, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THE TALISMAN OF SUPERNATURAL POWER WHICH WE LEFT WITH YOU? A BLACK STAR--WITH THE FIGURE OF THE GRIM REAPER...

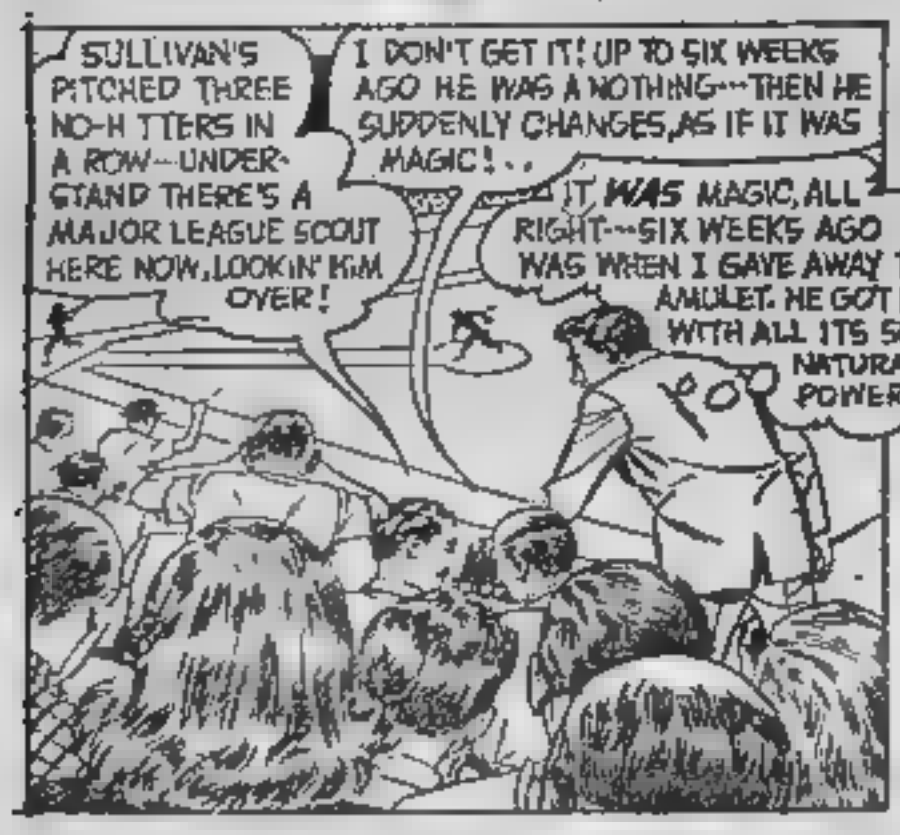
OH NO, NO! DON'T TELL ME THAT WAS THE SECRET OF THE POWER I HAD--THAT MADE EVEN FOOLISH LITTLE INVENTIONS THINGS OF TERRIFIC POWER! AND WHEN I GAVE IT AWAY, ALL OF THE POWER WENT WITH IT--NO, NO...

IT CAN'T BE, IT CAN'T--HEY, WAIT! I'M BACK HERE IN MY ROOM! IT WAS ALL A DREAM...BUT WHAT A VIVID DREAM!

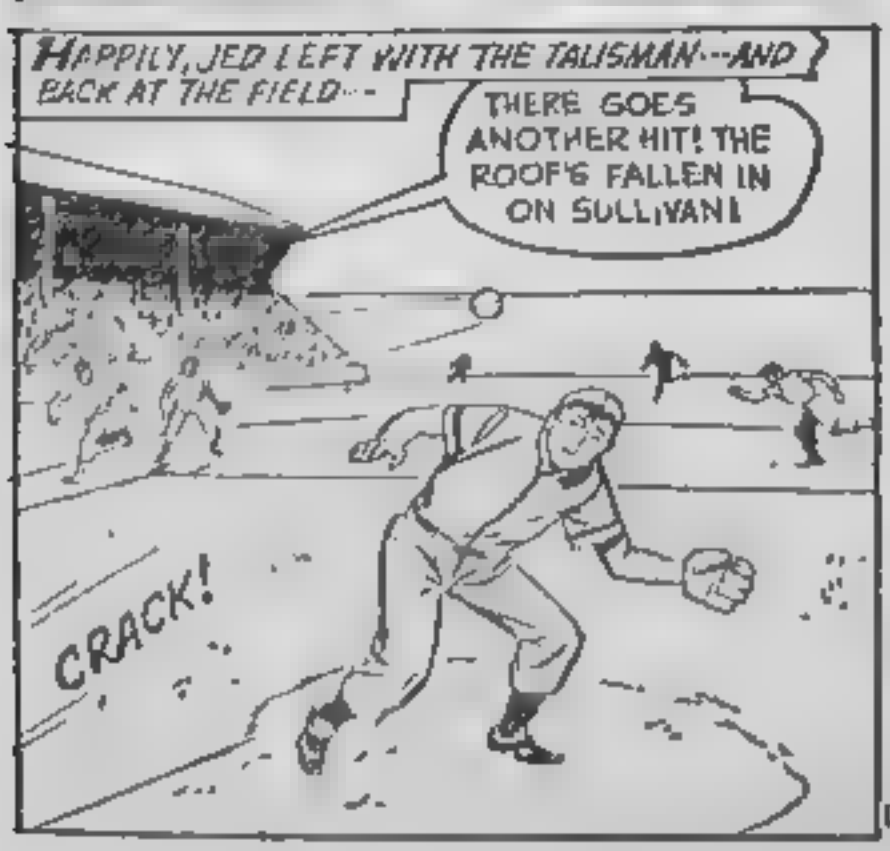
BUT HIS MIRROR REFLECTED A FADING IMAGE---
THEN THEY WERE HERE--- MY MOTHER AND FATHER--- AND IT'S ALL TRUE!


THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING TO DO ---GET HIS POWER BACK AGAIN---. THEN MAYBE HE COULD HELP AGAINST THE INVASION WHICH THREATENED PLANET EARTH! HE RUSHED BACK TO HIS FORMER LABORATORY---
IT'S YOU, HUH? GET GOING---YOU WERE KICKED OUT OF HERE FOR GOOD!
PLEASE, PLEASE ---I—I'VE GOT TO TALK TO MR. SULLIVAN, THE JANITOR---

REMEMBER THAT THING I GAVE YOU— THAT AMULET? WHAT DID YOU DO WITH IT?
GAVE IT TO MY SON—SAY, YOU HEARD ABOUT HIM? ALL OF A SUDDEN, HE'S TURNED INTO A GREAT BASEBALL PLAYER! HE'S DOWN AT CITY FIELD RIGHT NOW, PITCHIN' A GAME!


SULLIVAN'S PITCHED THREE NO-HITTERS IN A ROW—UNDERSTAND THERE'S A MAJOR LEAGUE SCOUT HERE NOW, LOOKIN' HIM OVER!
I DON'T GET IT! UP TO SIX WEEKS AGO HE WAS A NOTHING---THEN HE SUDDENLY CHANGES, AS IF IT WAS MAGIC!..
IT WAS MAGIC, ALL RIGHT---SIX WEEKS AGO WAS WHEN I GAVE AWAY THE AMULET. HE GOT IT, WITH ALL ITS SUPER-NATURAL POWERS!

IT TOOK THE LAST PENNY JED HAD IN THE WORLD---
WELL, HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT FOR IT? TELL YOU WHAT--- I'LL GIVE YOU FIFTY DOLLARS!
FOR THAT AMOUNT--- YOU CAN HAVE IT!


HAPPILY, JED LEFT WITH THE TALISMAN---AND BACK AT THE FIELD---
THERE GOES ANOTHER HIT! THE ROOF'S FALLEN IN ON SULLIVAN!
CRACK!

THAT NIGHT---
I'VE GOT NO TIME TO TRY TO FIGURE OUT NEW WEAPONS! ANYWAY, NOTHING I CAN COME UP WITH WOULD WORK AGAINST THE STRENGTH OF THAT COMING INVASION FROM SPACE!

THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING LEFT ...A PLEA TO THE GREAT SUPER-NATURAL ITSELF...
OH, POWERS OF MAGIC AND DARKNESS! LET ME TAKE MY PLACE AMONG YOU, FOR I AM FACED WITH A MIGHTY CHALLENGE!

A STRANGE DIZZINESS GRIPPED HIM... HE WAS WHIRLING WHIRLING THROUGH THE SKIES OF NIGHT...

NOW HE WAS IN AN OMINOUS LAND AND FEAR TORE AT HIM...
IF... IF ONLY I COULD GET THROUGH THOSE GATES... BUT THEY'RE LOCKED!

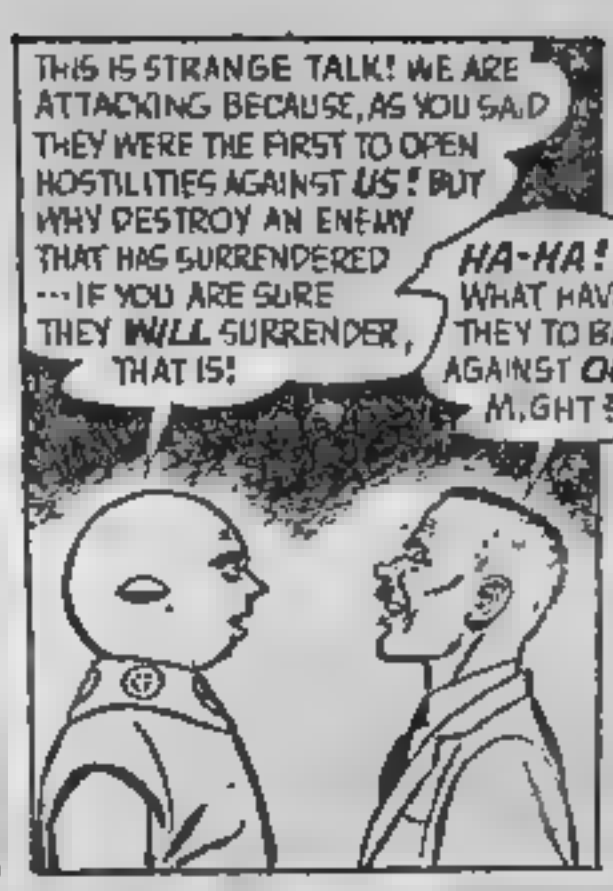
IT WAS AS IF THE GATES HAD EARS. THEY OPENED WIDE AND HE PASSED THROUGH. BUT INSIDE...
SPIRITS... ALL OF THEM!

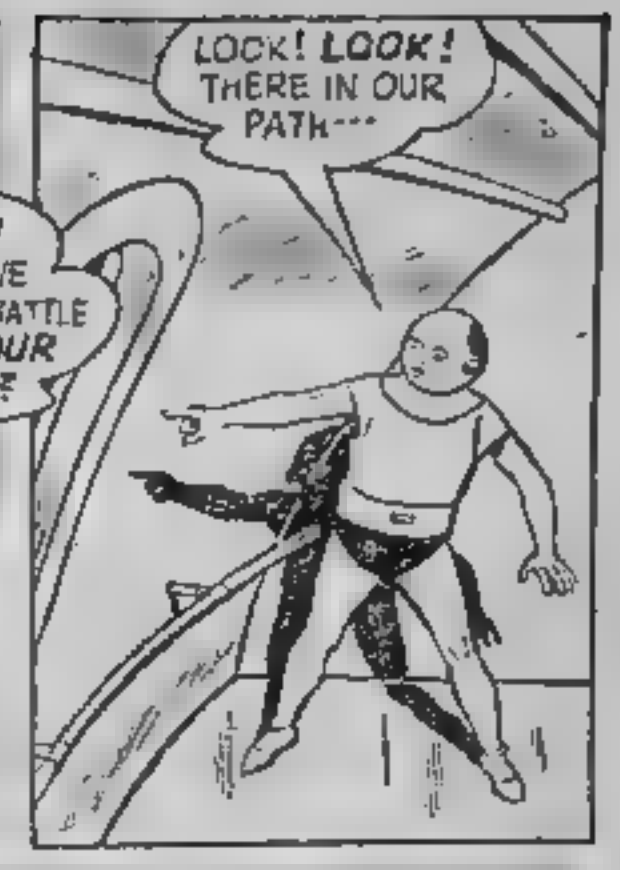
KEEP BACK! DON'T ...DON'T HURT ME...
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM US... YOU ARE OF THE SUPER-NATURAL, AND THEREFORE OUR BROTHER!
AND THE SUPER-NATURAL IS NOT EVIL... THIS YOU WILL LEARN! THERE ARE HUGE NUMBERS OF US, WITH UNKNOWN POWERS...

YOU MEAN... YOU'D USE THOSE POWERS FOR GOOD?
YOU HAVE BUT TO COMMAND US!

MEANWHILE, TIME WAS GROWING SHORT. THE INVADERS FROM SPACE HAD UNLEASHED A FIERCE TORNADO ON HELPLESS EARTH...

NOW WE WILL STRIKE! THEY WILL SURRENDER BEFORE OUR INVINCIBLE MIGHT AND THEN WE WILL DESTROY THEM!


THIS IS STRANGE TALK! WE ARE ATTACKING BECAUSE, AS YOU SAID THEY WERE THE FIRST TO OPEN HOSTILITIES AGAINST US! BUT WHY DESTROY AN ENEMY THAT HAS SURRENDERED ---IF YOU ARE SURE THEY WILL SURRENDER, THAT IS!
HA-HA! WHAT HAVE THEY TO BATTLE AGAINST OUR MIGHT?


LOOK! LOOK! THERE IN OUR PATH---

AND THERE, ARRAYED AGAINST THE INVADERS THE ARMY OF THE UNKNOWN!
THERE THEY ARE! ADVANCE TO THE ATTACK!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE OR HOW THEY CAME TO BE HERE-- BUT WE'LL BLAST THEM OUT OF SPACE! OPEN FIRE WITH GAMMA DISINTEGRATORS!

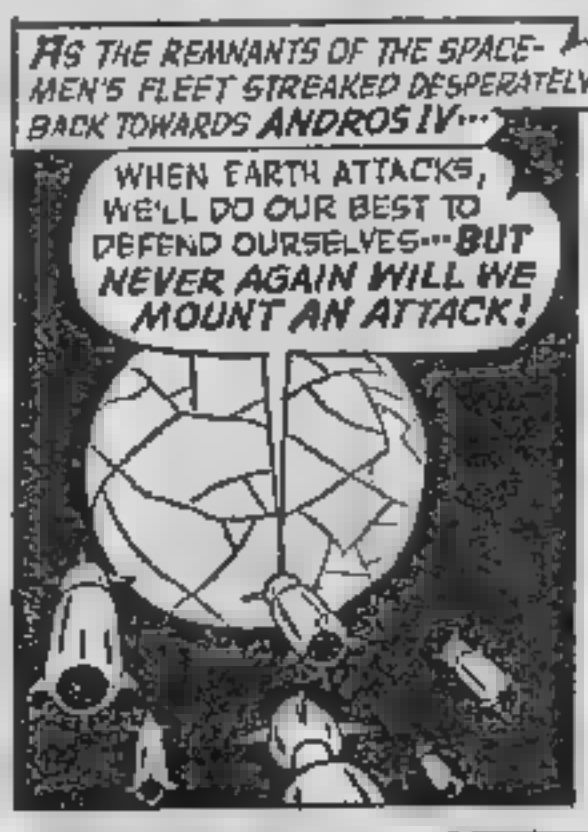
WHAT GOOD THE MIGHTIEST WEAPONS OF SUPER-SCIENCE? YOU CAN'T KILL THE SUPERNATURAL---
KA-POW!
WHAM!
CRRAK!

NOW THEY CLOSED WITH THE SPACE ARMADA! IT WAS A GRIM ATTACK OF LIMITLESS POWER---
GO TO IT, FELLAS!
CRUNCH!
POW!

NOTHING WE DO CAN STOP THEM···AND THEY'VE ALREADY DESTROYED HALF OUR FLEET! WHY WEREN'T WE INFORMED THAT EARTHLINGS WERE LIKE··· THAT?
WE WERE LED TO BELIEVE THAT THEY WERE WEAK, POWERLESS ··· AND I THINK I KNOW WHY!

SO YOU WERE A LYING SPY, SENT INTO OUR MIDST BY PLANET EARTH ···FOR THE PURPOSE OF LURING OUR FLEET TO DESTRUCTION! THEN EARTH WOULD FIND IT EASY TO TAKE OVER A DEFENSELESS PLANET··· WAS THAT YOUR PLAN?
NO ··NO ·· YOU'VE G-GOT TO BELIEVE ME··

BUT THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN TO HIM. PUNISHMENT WAS SWIFT AND ORIGINAL! AND WHO WAS TO SAY THAT IT WAS UNDESERVED?
HELP! H-HELP! DON'T···


AS THE REMNANTS OF THE SPACEMEN'S FLEET STREAKED DESPERATELY BACK TOWARDS ANDROS IV···
WHEN EARTH ATTACKS, WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO DEFEND OURSELVES···BUT NEVER AGAIN WILL WE MOUNT AN ATTACK!

BEHIND THEM, THEY LEFT THE MAN WHOSE VILLAINY HAD ALMOST SPELLED THE END OF A WORLD. IT WAS GRIM JUSTICE ·· EHRLICH, WHO HAD HOPED TO DOMINATE SPACE WAS NOW DESTINED TO BLAZE A PATH THROUGH IT FOREVER···

NOBODY ON EARTH EVER KNEW WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SALVATION···
KIDS LAUGHING, PEOPLE AT PEACE AND SAFE···THAT'S THE ONLY REWARD I WANT···

YES···THAT···AND THE FUN HE GETS OUT OF WORKING IN HIS LABORATORY AGAIN···
NOW THAT I KNOW I'M REALLY A WIZARD ···I'LL BET THESE TURN OUT TO BE ROBOTS!
THE END!

IF A MAN SEEMS TO KNOW YOUR EVERY THOUGHT, BE CAREFUL! IF HE CLAIMS TO HAVE BUILT AN IMPOSSIBLE MACHINE, BEWARE! IF HE OFFERS TO DEMONSTRATE THE MACHINE, BE WISE! BE FAR AWAY...

WHEN HE PRESSES THE BUTTON!

BUT TAKE IT EASY HUMOR HIM... IF HE SAYS HE'S BUILT A TIME MACHINE, PLAY ALONG... YOU KNOW THE ROUTINE!
RELAX BOSS! I'LL BRING HIM BACK! IT'S A CINCH!

A TIME MACHINE! I'VE RUN INTO SOME REAL CHARACTERS BUT THIS ONE MUST BE A DILLY! IMAGINE ANYONE THINKING HE CAN REALLY SEND SOMEONE BACK IN TIME!

CHUCKLING HALEY LEFT THE OFFICE! AND YET AFTERWARD, SOMEHOW HE COULD NOT REPRESS A LITTLE SHUDDER OF APPREHENSION
I'D BETTER NOT TAKE ANY CHANCES! IF HALEY IS AS PECULIAR AS I THINK... MAYBE IT WOULD BE SAFER NOT TO USE THE FRONT DOOR...

THERE HE IS! HE...
COME IN, MR. HALEY!

YOU WERE EXPECTING ME! AND YOU KNOW MY NAME!
RIGHT ON BOTH COUNTS, MISTER HALEY! I KNOW EVEN MORE! YOU REPRESENT THE ACE DETECTIVE AGENCY. AND YOU'VE COME TO INFORM ME OF A LEGACY... CORRECT?

YES! HOW DID YOU KNOW?
THAT ISN'T IMPORTANT! MISTER HALEY, I'M A BUSY MAN! I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT AND MY ANSWER IS THAT I CAN'T BE BOTHERED! SO, WILL YOU PLEASE LEAVE NOW?

SHAW WAS MAD! HALEY WAS SO CERTAIN! IT WAS FOR SHAW'S SAKE, AS MUCH AS FOR HIS OWN, THAT HE LUNGED! BUT THAT WAS A MISTAKE...

JUST FOR AN INSTANT, HALEY SEEMED TO BE THE VORTEX OF A GREEN WHIRLPOOL! HIS BRAIN SPUN! AND THEN...

IT SEEMED PERFECTLY RIGHT AND NORMAL TO HALEY THAT HE SHOULD BE BACK IN THE OFFICE...

EVERYTHING SEEMED PERFECTLY RIGHT AND NORMAL TO HALEY, LATER! AFTER ALL, HOW COULD HE KNOW THAT THIS SCENE HAD TAKEN PLACE *BEFORE*?

HALEY WENT CONFIDENTLY ON HIS WAY! BUT HE WOULD *NOT* BRING SHAW BACK! JUST AS HE *HADN'T* BROUGHT SHAW BACK ALL THE *OTHER* TIMES!

THE THIEVING MAGPIE

SHE ENTERED AN ART GALLERY WHERE FINE WORKS OF ANCIENT SCULPTURES WERE ON DISPLAY...

WEARIED BY A FULL DAY OF SIGHT-SEEING, THE TOURIST FELL INTO A DEEP SLEEP THAT NIGHT, IN HER HOTEL ROOM...

THE WOMAN WAS SUDDENLY AWAKENED BY A LOUD SOUND, AS THO OF "FLAPPING WINGS"! THEN SHE NOTICED...

THE NEXT MORNING, THE MISSING NECKLACE WAS FOUND IN A STRANGE PLACE...

THE MAGPIE IS KNOWN TO PICK UP GLEAMING STONES AND GLASS FROM THE GROUND, LURED BY SOME STRANGE ATTRACTIONS! BUT A *THEIVING MAGPIE* MADE OF *STONE*? INDEED THERE WAS NO EXPLANATION FOR THIS MYSTERY!

- END -

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